

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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70P WHERE SOLD

Referral made to ombudsman over comments

A TOWN councillor has been reported to the Local Government Ombudsman over social media comments following a Boxing Day hunt.

Welshpool Town Council agreed at a special meeting to refer Councillor Heather Chave to the ombudsman.

But councillors said her appearance at an anti-fox hunting demonstration in the town did not breach

council rules. The meeting cleared both Councillor Chave and Councillor Nicola Morris of any wrongdoing during the Boxing Day hunt protest.

Both were part of a demonstration against fox hunting during the annual parade of horses and hounds in Welshpool.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "The councillors were acting as in-

dividuals and not representing the town council on this day with regards to the event or issue of fox hunting. The council recognises the right for individuals to campaign in a free country.

"The council has clear evidence that both councillors acted properly on the day of the hunt outside the town hall. What others did within the

protest group is not a matter for the town council."

The councillor has been referred to the ombudsman because of comments that followed on Facebook.

"Councillors sign up to a code of conduct which applies 365 days a year and 24 hours a day in all walks of life and the council considered that Councillor Chave's comments

on Facebook were in breach of the code," Mr Robinson said.

"The council expects all its councillors and staff to act in a professional and polite way at all times without exception. The council also expresses its concern that Facebook is being used in an abusive way and that there is clearly on occasions 'cyber bullying' taking place."

DEVELOPMENT

Plan to build 600 homes on edge of town progressing

PLANS for 600 homes on the edge of Oswestry are moving forward after highways bosses lifted a recommendation to refuse planning permission.

Developers J Ross Developments submitted an outline application to Shropshire Council in June 2016 to build on 24 hectares of land between the Oswestry bypass and Shrewsbury Road.

Highways England raised a number of objections about the effect the development would have on the nearby A5 and A483, delaying the process.

But in a letter to planning officers, Highways England said it had now lifted its recommendation that planning permission should be refused although it added conditions that the developer must adhere to. Asset manager Patrick Thomas said if the application is successful, J Ross Developments must provide a construction traffic management plan detailing the phases of the development, expected daily construction traffic and access.

Meanwhile, a new housing estate of up to 150 homes could be built on the edge of Oswestry.

Jennings Estates Ltd has applied for permission for a development on land south of Middleton Road in the town.

DEMOCRACY

Councillor steps down from role

A VACANCY has opened up at Oswestry Town Council after a councillor stepped down.

Julie Edwards has stepped down from her Cambrian Ward seat due to changing work circumstances.

She sat on a number of the council's committees.

The council is set to advertise for people to come forward for the vacant post.

If an election is needed to select the new councillor, a vote would take place in the coming months.

INSIDE

Clever couple bag a bargain



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DELIGHT AT CAR PARK FEE FREEZE

Report by Jonny Drury

TRADERS have welcomed a decision by Oswestry Town Council to freeze car parking fees for the next 12 months.

The decision was made after the town's mayor warned the council would have been "lambasted" if it had increased the fees.

The town's Central, Smithfield and Horsemarket car parks are owned by the town council.

It had been suggested that the hourly charge should rise from 50p to 60p.

The rise would have seen a prospective extra £34,658 for the council.

But Councillor Chris Schofield said at a meeting on Monday night: "I do not think it is the right time to play with car parking charges."

Mayor Vince Hunt added: "I cannot support a rise in parking charges. We would be lambasted by some traders if we did."

The parking freeze has been welcomed by traders. Wendy Hughes from the Flower Gallery in Bailey Street said: "I'm glad they've decided not to up the charges because paying for car parking is always something people complain about. I know it's only 10p but it would affect trade. Any increase would hit us."

Mark Derham from Oswestry Chamber of Commerce: "I think that a move like this can only be a good thing. Hopefully it will help more people come into the town and boost trading."

The move comes as Shropshire Council was due to discuss its new car parking strategy, including the fees it charges for car parks it owns in Oswestry. Also among the proposals to be discussed at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday) at Shirehall in Shrewsbury was the scrapping of plans to charge for parking at Gobowen Railway Station near Oswestry.

● Idea - See Page 17

New tourism brochure is the biggest one yet



Oswestry Borderland Tourism board members Pam Johnson and Helen Gilbert with the new brochures. Photo: David Hamilton.

THIS year's Oswestry tourism brochure is the biggest yet with more copies being printed than ever before, bosses have revealed.

The 2018 brochure has been printed with four more pages than last year and about 30,000 copies have been printed - 2,000 more than 2017.

Lee Lucks, chairman of Oswestry Borderland Tourism, said: "We wanted to showcase not only our lovely town at the centre of the area but also how, by taking a day out from

town, you can discover such a huge variety of countryside and attractions all within easy reach."

She said she was grateful for the support of members who provide the funds to create, distribute and market the Oswestry brochure and who also volunteer their time to get the brochure printed.

Karen Pringle, Oswestry Borderland Tourism officer, said: "We are especially pleased that for the last few years we have been able

to source many new images of the area and town which really give our visitors a true picture of how lovely Oswestry and the borderlands are.

"The brochure is available at the Oswestry Town Information Centre and it will be distributed across the country throughout the year. The tourist industry is important to Oswestry and we are keen to highlight just what a wealth of things there are for visitors to see and do."

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Visitor attraction bosses will look again at plans

Report by Sue Austin

TOURIST attraction bosses say they will have to go back to the drawing board after being advised to withdraw a planning application for their site.

The British Ironwork Centre had put forward ambitious plans for the future of the attraction off the A5 south of Oswestry along with a retrospective application for the current buildings on the land.

The family owned business, which has withdrawn the bid, has now been advised to submit a new application purely for the site as it is.

Chairman of the centre Clive Knowles said: "After two and a half years of putting these plans together we are in despair that we have been frustrated by the planning process and that we are having to go back to the drawing board and submit a new application."

"We are held in very high esteem and are the fourth most popular tourist attraction in Shropshire on Trip Advisor despite having no public funding for what we do."

Mr Knowles said his disappointment was that many of the plans would now not go forward in the short term.

He said: "We were in talks with the National Cycle Museum to return it from Mid Wales to Oswestry where it was first created. We can not go forward with those and it means letting a wonderful project down."

"Our nature reserve cannot go ahead and plans for our train to take people, including those with mobility problems, around the centre and its station have been derailed."

"We had great plans for a dedicated building to house a Shropshire Youth Trust hub that recently opened here - that is now all up in the air."

He said that the family's first priority was to its staff. "We want to reassure them that we will find a way to move forward," he said. A new planning application for the buildings currently at the centre and an improved access from the A5 will now be drawn up for submission to Shropshire Council.

Injured rescued dog is getting Miles better



Graham Jones with Miles the dog who was found injured after being hit on a road near Oswestry on Christmas Eve

A DOG-loving couple have taken in a badly injured animal who was hit by a police vehicle on an emergency call on Christmas Eve.

Graham and Andrea Jones are fostering Miles, the whippet cross saluki, who was found at the Mile End Service Station, near Oswestry, after a five-day search.

The 18-month-old dog was hit by police on an emergency call on December 24 and sustained serious leg injuries.

Members of the public following Miles's story have raised more than £2,000 to pay

for his vet bills. The couple from Battlefield in Shrewsbury, who volunteer for Hector's Greyhound Rescue, say he's recovering well and will soon be looking for a new home.

Andrea said: "He's doing very well and is responding well to treatment."

"His hair has started to grow back nicely and he absolutely loves people."

"The vet is really pleased with how he's coming on."

"He's eating really well, too."

"Last week he stole half a raw chicken

that wasn't actually meant for him - it was for us. You could say he's a foodie."

It was first thought Miles would have to have a skin graft on both back legs but Andrea's care means his chances of needing surgery are now slim.

Graham said: "He's got such a lovely temperament and I'll miss him when he goes off to a forever home. I'd keep him if we didn't already have so many dogs."

For more information visit www.hectors-greyhoundrescue.org/

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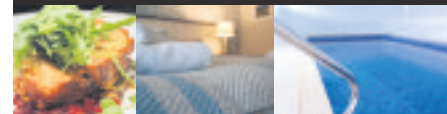


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Strategy is agreed on future of libraries

THE future of Shropshire's major libraries – including Oswestry Library – has been secured for the next five years.

Shropshire Council's cabinet has formally approved the authority's Library Services Strategy for 2018 to 2023.

It means "tier one" libraries at Shrewsbury, including at the Lantern, and Oswestry, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Ludlow and Bridgnorth are safe.

Lezley Picton, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for culture and leisure, said the strategy took weeks to put together following a public consultation at the end of last year. She said 700 people responded to the consultation, a figure which demonstrated the importance of libraries to the public.

"The best thing about all this is the amount of responses we have had," she said. "We took six to eight weeks to complete the strategy because we wanted make sure we have taken it all on board. We have listened to the public."

Under the plans, "tier two" libraries at Cleobury Mortimer, Church Stretton, Bishop's Castle, Ellesmere, Pontesbury, Albrighton and Wem will now have five years to become cost neutral. "Tier three" libraries, including Gobowen Library, will have to be self-funding within the next three years.

Ramblers to take on walk in village

THE Welshpool Ramblers' walk on Sunday will be a moderate walk of about seven miles from Meifod.

Meet at 9.30am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (OS grid ref. SJ 226075) or at the start of the walk in the car park next to Meifod Village Hall (OS grid ref. SJ 153133) for a 10.15am start.

Murder accused quizzed over bloody footprints

Report by Deborah Hardiman

A MAN accused of murdering the owner of a takeaway and diner told a jury he did not know anything about a pair of trainers that left bloody footprints at the scene.

Belkar Singh allegedly struck and stabbed his employer Satnam Singh Blugher more than 50 times at Tony's Diner at Halfway House last June.

Thousands of pounds in cash were missing from the premises when Mr Blugher, also known as Mr B, was discovered.

Under cross examination, Singh denied owning a pair of Lonsdale trainers. David Mason QC, prosecuting, then put it to Singh that another worker at the diner had given evidence that Singh always wore Lonsdales to work. The 58-year-old accepted hearing that evidence.

Prints from Lonsdale trainers in the victim's blood were found, jurors heard.

Mr Mason also put it to Singh: "You have told the jury a number of times that there were two men who came in and murdered Mr B and both of these men, who you referred to as the boss and Raja, were involved in killing and stabbing him causing him to bleed a lot. And dragging him across the floor, leaving him for dead."

"Can you help us by telling us why the footprint of the other attacker is not there?"

Singh, of Booth Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, said: "I don't know about that. They both killed him. One of them was positioned a little way from the other man."

Singh had previously told the jury that the man called Raja struck Mr Blugher on the head with a chapati pan before both men picked up knives and stabbed him in his presence.

The Indian national was employed to wash dishes and clean at the cafe on the A458 between Shrewsbury and Welshpool. When he was arrested two days after the alleged incident on June 27, he was found with more than £47,000 in cash. Singh denies murder. The trial continues.

Family donates to garden project



Ward manager Rebecca Warren hands over the donation at a ceremony at the hospital

A WARD manager and her siblings have donated over £2,000 towards a garden for spinal injury patients at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Rebecca Warren, ward manager for the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries at the hospital, has donated £2,200 to the Horatio's Garden Appeal.

Alongside her sister Sharon, a former healthcare assistant at the hospital, and brother Peter, they have donated the money in memory

of their grandfather Ronald Wear. He passed away in July and the trio wanted to ensure something positive came out of losing a man they described as their "best friend."

Rebecca said: "Losing Gramps was the worst thing to ever happen to us. He was not only our Gramps, he was a dad to us all, he was our best friend and inspiration. He was everything to us and that's why we wanted to do something to remember him by."

"Horatio's Garden is something I'm passionate about and delighted that it's coming here to RJA, and it was something Gramps felt passionately about too because he understood the difference it would make to our patients with spinal injuries. When Gramps was 27, he suffered spinal cord injuries after he was trampled on by a bull while working on a farm, so he knows himself the impact spinal injuries have on a person."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tales of farming will be recounted

THE January meeting of North Shropshire & Borders Smallholders and Country Living Group will be held on Wednesday next week.

It will take place at 7.30pm at The Bradford Arms, Llanymynech.

Ken Pugh will relate some of his tales of farming in Ape Dale, at the foot of Wenlock Edge. Ken ran a mixed farm there and once held the title "The biggest Liar in Shropshire".

The cost for visitors is £5 single or £7.50 per couple, members free. For more information call (01952) 740242 or visit the group's website at www.northshrop-smallholder.co.uk or Facebook page.

Spiritual centre to meet up again

OSWESTRY Spiritual Centre will hold its next meeting on Thursday next week.

It will take place at the Cambrian Room in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry.

The cost is £3.50 and the event runs from 7.30pm to 9pm with doors opening at 7pm.

The guest medium is Trinity-Rose Williams from Welshpool.

Call 07891 084071 for more details.

Four per cent increase agreed

RESIDENTS in Oswestry will face a four per cent rise in their council tax after members of the town council gave it the go-ahead at a meeting on Monday night.

A four per cent precept will see bills on a Band D home rise from £71.32 to £74.24 per year. It had been suggested to councillors that the council tax could rise by nine per cent which would have raised vital money to safeguard the town's youth services.

Town Clerk David Preston said after the meeting: "The four per cent increase will give us a sum of money but we can explore ways with Shropshire Council about safeguarding youth services in Oswestry, although at this stage no firm commitments have been made."

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James Corfield

Tragedy at show 'was an accident'

THE death of a teenager at the Royal Welsh Show last year was an accident, a coroner has concluded.

James Corfield, from Montgomery near Welshpool, went missing at the show and was last seen on a CCTV camera in BUILT Wells just before midnight.

His body was discovered in the River Wye on July 30.

At a lengthy inquest at Welshpool Magistrates Court, coroner Andrew Barkley heard how the teenager was seen going towards a footpath that ran next to the river.

Home Office pathologist Richard

Jones said there was no external injuries and he could not medically confirm the cause of death.

Mr Barkley said: "I or no-one else can give the answers the family desperately want," before recording a conclusion of accidental death.

A statement on behalf of the fam-

ily said: "We are currently working very hard alongside others, to make the Royal Welsh event safer, for the young people of Wales. There are important and urgent safety issues that have been identified and are starting to be addressed."

● Safety - Page 26

Revisions made to homes application in town centre

Report by Andrew Morris

A HOUSING scheme that developers say will bring much-needed affordable residential accommodation into the centre of Welshpool has been revised as part of a pre-planning consultation.

Mid Wales Properties Ltd wants to build apartments on the site of the former Welshpool Social Club, off Brook Street, on behalf of Mid Wales Housing Association.

It has been designed by Hughes Architects, which has building design and planning offices in Welshpool. The original application led to concerns from residents.

Thousands of tickets issued

MORE than 15,000 parking fines were issued by Shropshire Council in just 12 months - a 46 per cent increase compared on two years ago.

The fixed penalty notices have generated £1.25 million for council coffers over the past three years, with the figure rising sharply year-on-year.

The figures, obtained by the Liberal Democrats under the Freedom of Information Act, also showed that almost a fifth of the fines issued during the last financial year were overturned on appeal.

High Street in Bridgnorth was the place where the biggest number of fines was issued, with 2,037 tickets dished out from 2014 to 2017.

In Oswestry, it was Willow Street that saw the most fines issued, with 623 tickets given out.

The 17 homes now proposed would include seven two-bedroom apartments, seven one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom wheelchair accessible apartments.

Steve Bowen, of Mid-Wales Properties Ltd, said: "We are taking into account views of local residents and others prior to a full planning application being made."

"We have taken on board the comments from the consultation and, working with Hughes Architects, we have revised the design."

Alex Dawson, from Mid Wales Housing, said: "This is an important development, bringing what is a redundant and disused building and plot back into use."

"It is the first such housing scheme in the town centre for many years, ensuring good access to shops, amenities and transport for residents, whilst also providing truly energy efficient accommodation."

The new plans will be put forward to Powys County Council's planning committee along with comments and submissions from the pre-planning consultation.

Book proves big hit for hospice



Sam Evans with the re-published book which is helping Hope House Children's Hospice

A BOOK re-published as a fundraiser for Hope House Children's Hospice has already raised £2,000 for the Morda-based charity.

The book, a reprint of "The Industries of the Morda Valley" was revived by local retired journalist Sam Evans and his wife Tibs. It was originally published in 1939 as a collection of anecdotes in the local press about the many industries that lined the banks of the River Morda and the village

of Trefonen in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Mr Evans said: "Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors the town council's Treble Niners, Stans Superstore and Pinnacle Roofing, and to retailers who have agreed to forego any profit margins, we are able to hand over £5 to Hope House for every copy sold."

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Maternity units shake-up moves another step closer

Report by Lisa O'Brien

PLANS for a public consultation surrounding a scheme to shake up maternity services in Shropshire have taken a step forward.

Health bosses at Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group have approved proposals to send to public consultation.

However, the group has requested an amendment be made to the proposed model. It says the consultation should be carried out with the understanding that there will be up to

Dad's anger over boiler repair delay

A MAN with physical problems suffered in a car accident was left without a hot water for more than two weeks over the festive period.

Tony Grimes, who suffered serious injuries in the accident in the 1980s, lives in a Sanctuary Housing home in Ascot Road in Oswestry.

His boiler broke on December 18 and was finally fixed on January 3.

His father Sydney said his son is a vulnerable man due to the care he still receives from the injuries he suffered over 30 years ago, and believes it was unacceptable he was left without hot water and a boiler for so long.

A spokeswoman for Sanctuary Housing apologised for the delay in repairing the boiler.

She added: "The repairs to the boiler at this address were completed on January 3.

"We had identified that new parts were required when we visited the property on December 19 and we carried out the work as soon as the replacements were delivered by our supplier.

"While we did provide temporary electric heaters for the resident to use, we apologise for the inconvenience caused while we waited for the arrival of the new parts."

five maternity hubs across Shropshire and their locations are yet to be determined.

Shropshire CCG will have to agree to the amendment before public consultation, which is expected to last eight weeks, can begin.

Under the proposals women will no longer be able to give birth at three of the county's rural maternity units, including Oswestry.

Instead they will be able to give birth at the consultant-led unit at Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, at the hospital's neighbouring midwife-led unit, at a free-standing midwife-led unit at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or at home.

The policy states that a community team will be available 24/7 for births in the midwife-led units and at home. A series of maternity hubs would also be created to support women before and after birth.

The maternity shake-up has sparked campaigns to keep full services at all the maternity units.

Liz Grayston from Save Oswestry Maternity Unit said the battle would carry on in the light of the latest suggestion that the future location of the maternity units should be left undetermined.

She said: "There is a risk that in the end we won't get anything, but I would like to think they wouldn't be stupid enough to exclude Oswestry.

"You could say that the existing model already includes hubs but there needs to be more information about what they are proposing.

"The waters have continuously been muddied by health bosses telling us things won't close from the start, and they have gone and closed them anyway. It is not over yet, we will carry on fighting. A decision around 10 years ago was overturned and we will fight to get this one overturned."

Pub burglars' £2,000 haul



CCTV images have been released after the break-in at the pub in Chirk

BURGLARS stole more than £2,000 when they broke into a pub while the landlord slept.

Mark Jones, from the Stanton House pub in Chirk near Oswestry, said the thieves took a safe, containing £1,500 and £600 belonging to a community group, who are mainly elderly people.

He has released CCTV footage of two men acting suspiciously outside the pub on Holyhead Road in the town.

Mr Jones said he had never had a break-in over 17 years in charge of the pub.

He said the thieves broke in at about 3am on Wednesday last week.

Mr Jones said: "I was upstairs but neither me nor the dog heard a thing.

"They didn't break any windows or set off any alarms and they were in and out very quickly.

"We think a very small guy came through a window at the back of the pub then crawled along the floor to avoid the motion sensors and let the other bloke in.

"The money that's gone includes £600 from the bingo club. It's more of a social club with mainly older people in it.

"We have sent the CCTV to the police and are asking anyone with information to contact the local police on 101."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

The very future of the Montgomeryshire Young Farmers movement is under threat because of fears Powys County Council will slash lifeblood funding to the organisation next year.

Funding for the movement from the county was reduced last year and as the council wrestles with the need to reduce its spend further cuts are also being discussed along with the closure of all the remaining youth centres in Powys. Last week I was fortunate to be a member of the council's Montgomeryshire Committee receiving a presentation from YFC members from across the county – and what an impressive performance it was by a confident group of passionate young people. The young farmers were keen to let councillors know just how important the funding was and how the money was carefully used in the development of young people to become highly valued citizens in our communities. And they certainly succeeded in getting their message across.

Those making the presentation impressed with their outstanding public speaking skills which will surely stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives – a skill honed on the competition stages of the YFC movement – and made it abundantly clear of how important the organisation has been in their lives so far.

It will be tragic if Powys County Council is forced to cut the badly-needed funding to the YFC movement but there are alarming warning signs flashing in County Hall with budget pressures looming and youth centres already earmarked for closure. I may have only seen a brief glimpse of the quality of young people putting Montgomeryshire firmly on the map in the national young farmers' federation but I get the impression they will show the initiative needed to succeed even without Powys County Council support.

In fact YFC members might take heed of the stark warning from the council's cabinet member for finance Councillor Aled Davies – himself a farmer. He pointed out that the council was failing to meet its savings targets and was in fact heading for an overspend. A deficit recovery plan has identified £2 million worth of proposals that have been planned to reduce the council's budget deficit. With that in mind it's hard to foresee anything other than a rate increase in the region of five per cent on the horizon for Powys residents this year, particularly with neighbouring counties forecasting similar increases



Adopt a healthy and balanced diet



Catch up on sleep to make you feel better



The depressing return to work after Christmas

Top tips that can help you overcome January blues

If you're feeling low after the festive period, KAREN COMPTON has advice on how to keep up the cheer

JANUARY can be a difficult time of year, with cold, grey days and post-Christmas indulgence putting a strain on waistlines and bank accounts, leaving many feeling sluggish and overwhelmed.

The return to work after days off over the Christmas period and the continuation of dark mornings and dark nights for what seems like months ahead, as well as freezing temperatures, can make you feel like just hibernating in your favourite chair with any remaining Christmas chocolates for the next few months.

The new year can be the perfect opportunity to turn over a new leaf and look to the year ahead with fresh optimism.

But research has shown that nearly 90 per cent of people in the United Kingdom fail to stick to their resolutions set each year.

Fortunately, there are a number of things that can be done to combat the January blues without setting unachievable goals and falling at the first hurdle.

We have come up with ten top tips for ensuring a fresh start in 2018 that won't break the bank.

And if all else fails, remember that in January the days really do start getting longer!

Get active

After weeks of indulging in festive food and alcohol, it's no wonder that many feel lethargic when the new year comes around. If joining an expensive gym isn't



New year is the perfect time to take up a new hobby or exercise

an option – go for a run, take up a sport, dance around the house, do the housework with a bit more vigour or go for a brisk walk in the country to help you get back into shape.

Take a trip

Once the memory of Christmas has faded, it's important to have something to look forward to, whether it's a weekend away or a short break.

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Eat well

Forget fad diets and gruelling detox regimes – adopting a healthy, balanced diet and eating treats in moderation will provide a more realistic and achievable lifestyle for 2018.

Be sociable

Whether it's seeing friends and family more, or getting out and about, one great way of beating the January blues is to spend more time with loved ones, or even make some new friends in the process. Whether it's a few drinks in a pub, a meal in a restaurant or even just a hot chocolate on the sofa at home, a chat and a laugh can break up the dark days of winter.

Get a good night's sleep

A sure fire way to feel better about

the new year is to catch up on sleep. Establishing a regular pattern of seven to eight hours per night and keeping bedtime and waking times consistent will help recharge the batteries.

Save money

Many people feel the financial strain of the festive season, so keeping an eye on spending can really help keep the bank balance in check in the new year. Put a bit of money aside each week to help keep on top of finances.

Have a day out

From museums and art galleries to theme parks and castles, the UK has lots to offer for a great day out. Take a walk in the countryside or visit one of the UK's many free attractions for a trip that won't break the bank.

Take up a hobby

New year is the perfect time to take up a new hobby or try a new experience. Whether it's horse-riding, Zumba or mountain biking, there are hundreds of activities that can be done on a budget. If the bad weather does make you want to stay at home, try some form of craft. Creating something, maybe for yourself or your home, can fill you with pride.

Be positive

It can be difficult to feel positive in cold, grey January, but smiling can help lift moods and spread positivity to others. Starting the morning with a smile and a stretch can set the day off on a positive note and help bring a little happiness to the new year.

Treat a loved one

Whether it's a luxury spa day, a trip to the theatre, or an exciting weekend away for two, treating a loved one to something special can help anyone forget their January blues. Or why not plan that summer holiday, whether home or abroad: it will give you something to look forward to.

WORKING FOR YOU



RAF Shawbury was used as one of the very first bases of the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, when No 29 (Flying Training) Wing and the Aeroplane Repair Section were established under the command of Major Arthur Tedder – who as Lord Tedder would later serve as Chief of the Air Staff. Although closed in 1920, it was reopened shortly before the Second World War in 1938 and has been in continuous use ever since.

It is now home to the Defence Helicopter Flying School and is at the forefront of the Ministry of Defence's UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS), in which £1.1 billion is being invested for rotary-wing aircraft.

This enormous investment will provide a boost to the economy. RAF Shawbury is one of the largest employers in Shropshire, and the new project will support 220 new jobs, on top of the 280 already created by UKMFTS.

It will mean new aircraft – the Airbus H135 Juno and H145 Jupiter – training pilots and crews from all three Armed Services and cutting-edge flight simulators giving students their first experiences of military helicopter aviation.

These new aircraft are quieter and more efficient than their predecessors – the Griffin and the Squirrel – which is great news for local residents. On top of this, the simulators mean that there will be less flying overall, since more realistic, immersive training can be provided on the ground.

The combined effect of the developments will thus be less noise locally.

To accommodate this new equipment, a new state-of-the-art training centre is nearly complete, the station's hangars are being refurbished and ground-based infrastructure installed to train future aircrew in the use of such aircraft as the Apache, Chinook, Merlin and Wildcat for the wide array of functions which military helicopters are asked to fulfil.

The new training scheme will commence in April this year and run well into the future.

It has been confirmed until at least 2033 and possibly to 2038. This is, obviously, great news for all who work at RAF Shawbury.

As Shawbury celebrates its centenary as an RAF station this year and looks forward to the next 100 years, we can all feel proud that North Shropshire continues to play a vital strategic role in the defence of the United Kingdom with strong support from the local community.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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Q: I am due in court next month and the way things are looking I am worried that I may end up going to prison. As I've never been in a prison before I don't know what to expect. I'm especially worried about the effects it will have on my children. Will they be able to visit me in prison? And if they can visit me will they have to go through things like being searched? What will happen if they get upset or bored, will it mean my partner will have to cut short the visit?

A: You don't need to worry about losing contact with your children as they will be able to visit you. The only time they would not be allowed to visit is if you are deemed to present a potential risk to them.

When they visit they will have to stay with the adult that brings them at all times and they must be kept under control. Babies and young children do not normally need to be named on the Visiting Order, nor do they need independent identification, but you should get this confirmed by the individual prison. Pushchairs and carry cots are normally not allowed inside the prison.

All visitors, even babies, are subject to search. Children and female visitors will usually receive just a 'rub down' by a female prison officer. If one of your children is a baby, most prisons will allow you to hold him or her. It would be advisable for there to be two visiting adults if the children are very young, so that one of them can take the children out of the Visit Room if they become bored or fractious.

Further information relating to this question is available from Emma Simoes, a Partner with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



We all need to prevent the bullying Christmas is great – but we don't need the huge run-up

BULLYING isn't right. It doesn't matter what age you are.

It doesn't matter if you're in school, university or working. It will never be right.

People fall, but most importantly they have to get up again.

This topic is talked about extensively at schools and colleges – but is it really helping? People are still getting bullied, and schools are dealing with the branches and really they should be dealing with the roots

of the problem AKA the bullies themselves. Schools need to be more aware of what is happening within their community and with their students, otherwise groups like the Anti-Bullying Alliance are just pointless.

There are statistics for suicide, self-harm, teen pregnancy and yet we still do not have solid statistics for bullying.

Suicides etc are usually the results of a childhood of taunting and teasing. We need

to fix the root of the problem before it gets out of hand. Sometimes teachers feel powerless because it normally happens in another classroom or outside school but why can't they consult one another?

People need to wake up and realise that this is a serious problem because it is becoming the norm and that can't happen. It is the source of the problem.

GISELLE HAYDOCK
Whitchurch

Image from the 1950s is a treat for car fans



Here's a feast for lovers of 1950s cars. This picture was taken in Church Street, Oswestry, in 1954. While the cars have changed, the buildings today are much the same. The picture is courtesy of the Geoff Charles Collection held at the National Library of Wales. Geoff Charles was an Oswestry-based photographer and the collection runs to tens of thousands of images.

Sexist behaviour is just not right and it never will be

WHEN did not begin to mean yes?

I am some kind of sexual conquest for a member of the male gender who had the audacity to expect us to let them walk all over us. Oh, how you were mistaken. I am not another man hating feminist, or here to tell you how everything you have done is horrible and you should repent against your sins.

I'm just asking when did the respect stop because of my gender or my makeup or the way I dress and, even worse, the colour of my skin. The worst part is when they refuse to acknowledge what they do wrong and dismiss us as hormonal females.

I know you must see me as some angry woman who had nothing to do one afternoon but I just feel like these things need to be talked about so people know it's not okay. When I walk into a room I am an object, no longer a human being.

So now I shall ask, how would you feel if I was someone you loved? Your sister? Brother? Daughter?

JENIFER SMITH
Weston Rhyon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iaim.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Just hope parents can afford all this

CONGRATULATIONS to HRH Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on their engagement.

Wonderful news to brighten up these dull days.

After my daughter's wedding some years ago, my heart goes out to the bride's parents who by tradition must pay for the wedding.

I hope they have very deep pockets for what promises to be a tremendous wedding bash.

PETER CARTLEDGE
Tetchill

Cyclists needed a bit of extra help too in the budget

TO improve life for drivers, Philip Hammond, froze fuel duty.

The campaigning group, FairFuelUK, said it was "pleased that the Chancellor has understood the debilitating effect of raising fuel duty on consumers, households, businesses and the broad economy".

To improve life for women, the five per cent VAT, 'tampon tax' has been scrapped.

And to help rail commuters, the Chancellor has extended discounted railcards to 30-year-olds, saying it would be "revenue neutral". It could save 'poor' rail commuters hundreds of pounds a year.

But what's in the budget for the millions of poor people that are forced to walk or cycle everywhere? University students must be the biggest group using bicycles due to transport poverty.

To be fair, shouldn't VAT be scrapped on all bicycles and related products, especially those needed to protect life, e.g. head-cams and lights?

ALLAN RAMSAY
Radcliffe

SINCE the end of Halloween and Remembrance Day we were bombarded with anything and everything to do with Christmas.

I know people want to get it the mood for the holiday season. But it is extremely annoying that when you want to go to a simple shop like the Co-Op, as soon as Halloween is over Christmas food, chocolates and small gifts are already on the shelves. Some shops I've been in didn't even wait until the end of October before putting their Christmas goods in stock.

People may call me a Grinch but I do not hate Christmas, in fact I love it! But when you walk into shops and immediately get bombarded with Christmas deals, decorations and that horrendous music it can get rather irritating. Many shoppers probably want to get their shopping in early before they run out or the prices get higher but can't they just do that online?

It's honestly much quicker and takes less time in my opinion.

You've also got to think of the poor workers.

Just imagine how they feel, just trying to get on with their lives and make a living; but forced to listen to constant Christmas jingles and wear stupid hats or headbands. Maybe some of these people enjoy the prospect of this but not if they have to do it every day until Christmas is over.

Imagine being forced to wear a onesie every day for a year from the start of January until December. It would be horrible! Or forced to listen to your most hated song or music for the same amount of time. You would hate it.

So just spare a thought for those who don't need to know about Christmas until December.

ABBY WATKINSON
Llanymynech

It's all there in the Bible

WOULDN'T it be great if we could predict future events?

A man named Daniel in the Old Testament predicted many things which happened far into the future.

He lived around 550 BC.

He foretold the rise and fall of four great empires and described their rulers' lives in detail.

2,500 years before it took place he predicted that Jerusalem would be freed from Turkish control in 1917 and the State of Israel would be declared in 1948.

This is just one of the hundreds of prophecies in the Bible, so those who rubbish the Bible should check it out for themselves.

RON JONES
St Martins

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Club is given talk on CADW

BILL Rowell, President of Welshpool Rotary Club, welcomed three guests to the group's first meeting of the year.

The club's first meeting of the year was held at The Royal Oak Hotel on January 3.

The three guests the rotary club president welcomed to the meeting were Tom Howl, Frances Robinson and Joel Yeap.

The speaker for the club meeting was Jeff Spencer.

Mr Spencer spoke to rotary club members about his work as a field monument warden with CADW in the north west of Wales.

Mr Spencer's talk was followed by a question and answer session.

The vote of thanks was given by Rtn Ewen MacLeod.

Rotary backing showing of film

THE film 'Breathe' will be screened at Oswestry's Kinokulture Cinema in Arthur Street.

The film will be shown tomorrow evening (Friday) and on Saturday at 7.30pm with a matinee at 1.30pm on January 24.

There will be a representative from each of the three Oswestry rotary clubs present before each screening to hand out a leaflet to explain more about the programme.

There will also be a voluntary bucket collection for donations that will go to continue the important work to see off the disease.

Rotary International through its 'Purple4Polio' programme, in conjunction with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has over the last 25 years almost eradicated polio from the world. For more information call (01691) 650854.

Man jailed for over five years for sex assaults

Report by David Banner

A MAN who raped a youth and sexually assaulted a young boy has been jailed for more than five years.

Alan Robert Hancock, of Upper Church Street, Oswestry, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court for sentence when social and psychiatric reports were considered.

Judge Peter Barrie said the rape victim was already vulnerable and was significantly younger than Hancock and had been distressed by the experience.

He said there were severe psychological consequences for the victim which was an aggravating feature.

In addition, a sexual assault involving a young boy was a clear abuse of trust.

Hancock was jailed for a total of five years and six months for the offences.

He has also been made subject to a sexual harm prevention order and must register as a sex offender for an indefinite period.

Sharonjit Bahia, prosecuting, said that Hancock had denied the rape allegation and a trial started in November, but he had changed his plea to guilty before the victim, who was over 16, was called to give evidence.

She said that the second offence involving the young boy happened before the rape victim had made a complaint to the police.

Miss Bahia said Hancock had initially denied assaulting the boy but later admitted the assault.

Saleema Mahmood, for Hancock, said her client had suffered an horrific childhood and suffered post traumatic stress disorder which had led to him drinking to excess. He said he was remorseful about his actions.

Super caring Sarah scoops top award



Sarah Baker receives the award from Angela Staphnhill, on behalf of National Care Forum and compere Simon Robertson

A SHROPSHIRE woman, described as having "care DNA" has won an accolade in the Great West Midlands Care Awards.

Sarah Baker, who works for Home Instead Senior Care Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Oswestry, was presented with the Home Care Worker Award at a ceremony held at Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham.

Judges said: "Sarah stands out in a very competitive category as a born carer. She has care DNA."

"If you needed home care, you would certainly want Sarah to deliver it due to the great abilities she has shown, a well deserved winner."

The 36-year-old, who lives in Nesscliffe, near Oswestry, will now go through to the national finals of the Great British Care Awards to be held in March. The awards celebrate excellence across the care sector.

Rachael Birchall, of Home Instead Senior Care, nominated Sarah for the award.

She said: "Sarah is one terrifically amazing caregiver."

"She does not drive, lives in a village in the rural outskirts between Oswestry and Shrewsbury, has a family of six children and yet she is one of our most busy caregivers."

Signal box is set to be part of new rail station

A PART of Shropshire history will be a central piece of a heritage railway's new station.

The Llangollen Railway Trust development at Corwen is on track to open in just over a year and will feature a restored and rebuilt Shropshire signal box as part of the station.

The station is needed because currently passengers travelling from Llangollen to Corwen have to get off at a temporary halt just outside the town at the end of the line.

When finished the new station will also be home to a unique piece of railway history from Shropshire.

The former Weston Rhyn signal box is to be restored and rebuilt as part of the project, while fencing from Gobowen station has already been used.

George Jones from the railway trust said that progress is going well on the development.

He said: "The really big work element in the summer and autumn of 2017 was to excavate the northern side of the embankment to a depth of 10 feet and construct the foundations for the eventual installation of the signal box which awaits restoration in the yard at Carrog station. This work has cost in excess of £35k and was essential to allow the embankment to be extended to provide for the location of the points to the station loop lines and access to a siding."

"Most of this work was undertaken by the team of volunteers, with an average age of 68, aided by contractors when specific skills and equipment were required."

"The estimated value of the volunteer hours input to this project exceeds £200k, without which the project would be unaffordable."

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Woman fined by court for breaching her order

A WOMAN who failed to attend appointments with probation officers has admitted breaching her community sentence.

Elizabeth West, aged 29, of Oswestry, was given a suspended sentence order by magistrates on August 21 last year.

She was given the order for an offence of shoplifting.

West was given the eight-week order suspended for 12 months with conditions.

The conditions were that she carried out a drug rehabilitation and alcohol treatment for six months and complete a 30-day activity programme.

But she failed to attend her appointment on December 4, was arrested and taken to Telford Magistrates Court as a result.

Gavin McKenzie, for West, told the magistrates that West, of Caer Road, Oswestry, had recently moved out of a property where drug addicts resided in a bid to turn over a new leaf.

"On December 4 she was the victim of an assault and with everything that was going on, she left her mobile phone in a shop and didn't stay in touch with her probation officer."

"However, her officer has faith in her and is recommending that she continues with the order," Mr McKenzie said.

Chairman of the bench Arthur England told West: "We are very concerned that you should take advantage of the help that is being offered to you so that you can get off drugs and not steal."

"It is for your own good that you continue the order."

For the breach he fined her £40 and ordered her to pay £60 costs.

Sports scheme aims to help stars of the future

Report by Jack Butler

A SPORTS forum will launch a new initiative in Oswestry to help youngsters reach the next level in their sports.

The Good to Great! Oswestry Sports Network aims to attract young people excelling in their sports at a local level and try to push them on to national and international standard.

It aims to bring them together along with their parents and coaches to hear from inspirational experts and to share their experiences on topics common in all sports.

Quarterly meetings will be held with expert guest speakers on topics such as nutrition, sports psychology, dealing with injury and life after sport.

Stuart Manford, originally from Oswestry, came up with the idea. Stuart represented Wales in the 50 metre swimming in the 2006 commonwealth games. He started his swimming career as a child with Oswestry Otters.

The new initiative will be launched on February 9 at 7pm in Oswestry Cricket Club, with guest speaker Nick Beighton.

Nick served as a captain with the Royal Engineers in Afghanistan in 2009 when he lost his legs in an explosion. He began rowing during his rehabilitation and went on to compete at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, winning a bronze medal.

There will be a presentation from Nick about his sporting career and maintaining motivation. Susie Hancock, secretary at the Oswestry Sports Forum, said: "I am very excited about this new project and I would really like to reach potential members in all different sports."

Clerk is raising cash for cancer unit



Oswestry Town Clerk David Preston is raising money for Lingen Davies

THE national president of the Society of Local Council Clerks is to raise money to help cancer patients in Shropshire and Mid Wales.

David Preston is the clerk of Oswestry Town Council.

He is embarking on his 43rd year working in local government.

Mr Preston is hoping that his appointment as president of the national society will help to raise between £1,500 and £2,000 for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund based at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

His wife Sue was treated at the Lingen Davies centre when she was diagnosed with cancer and the couple say they have a great deal to thank the unit for.

Mr Preston said: "We have raised funds before for the unit but a chance has come up to do some more fundraising for them in 2017/18."

"It is well known that I am president of the Society of Local Council Clerks for a 12-month period and during each term the president has a charity."

"I have therefore nominated the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund as my charity and I would like to try and raise between £1,500 and £2,000 before I hand back the chain of office in October."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Future of town to be discussed

OSWESTRY and District Civic Society will be discussing the future of the town at its next meeting.

A public meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday next week at Holy Trinity Church on Roft Street.

The society believes that the creation of a longer term plan for Oswestry would allow a more coherent vision of the future of the town.

It says a plan would allow Oswestry to become a community which would be more than just combined housing estates. The meeting will take the form of a presentation by the civic society lasting about 45 minutes, after which discussions will take place. For more information contact Helen Roberts, secretary of the Oswestry and District Civic Society, on oswestrycivicsociety@gmail.com.

Aqueduct work will be a tall order

THE Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Oswestry is partially closed for some high level work.

The world famous structure, which soars 125 feet over the River Dee, will be partially sealed off for the next few weeks.

The scheduled maintenance means closures until February 9. The aqueduct will be closed to pedestrians at all times and will be closed to boats Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm. However it will be open before and after these times during daylight hours and will remain open on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Canal and River Trust will carry out work to ensure the structure and the Llangollen Canal that crosses it continues to be in good order.

The world-famous aqueduct and canal attracts about 300,000 visitors a year and a consultation is under way to help bring in more people.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Energy group given award

A RENEWABLE energy firm has been recognised for its commitment and diverse practices in the workplace.

Dulas Energy, based in Mid Wales, has qualified for an Exemplar Employer Award for the progress it has showed and inclusive approach towards working practices, retention and staff training.

The award programme, which is run by Chwarae Teg, showcases businesses that have broken down barriers affecting women's recruitment.

Businesses need to show a number of practices of a positive culture in the workplace to be considered for the award.

£2,000 donated at fireworks night

WELSHPOOL'S annual free fireworks display cost the town £4,500 this year, but almost half of that was recouped through donations on the night.

Despite rain showers, the display at Maesydre to mark bonfire night attracted up to 3,000 spectators for the 30-minute show.

There is no admission fee, with the town council keen to make the event a community get-together accessible to all.

But the donations made on the gate have now finished being counted up and just under £2,000 was raised.

"It was by far the most we have raised," said a spokesperson.

"Normally we get up to £1,000 in donations so we are delighted to have recouped so much this year," the spokesperson added.

Train boss makes pledge to improve rail services

Report by Sue Austin

THE chief executive of Arriva Trains Wales has pledged to improve the company's performance on the line from Shrewsbury through Mid Wales.

It follows complaints about the service on the Cambrian Line, taken up by Montgomeryshire Welsh Assembly Member, Russell George.

Last month Mr George wrote to Arriva Trains Wales CEO, Tom Joyner, drawing his attention to the repeated cancellation of services between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury during November.

Mr George said: "I am pleased to have received a positive and proactive response from the CEO of Arriva Trains Wales and am grateful to Mr Joyner for his offer to meet with me in Montgomeryshire to discuss the reliability of the service on the Cambrian Line and wider concerns regarding the rail network in Mid Wales.

"Mr Joyner said that the performance of the 7.38am from Newtown to Shrewsbury was below average and that he was disappointed that the performance was below par especially given that Arriva Trains Wales has one of the best punctuality records in the UK. The odd cancellation once every few months is part and parcel of railway life and whilst aggravating, customers can accept and put up with it.

"But there have been a large number of cancellations or part cancellations recently."

Growth deal plans are welcomed



Rowland Rees-Evans has welcomed the growth deal plans

PROPOSALS for a Mid Wales Growth Deal to help build a Welsh economy fit for the future have been welcomed by the chairman of an independent organisation that represents tourism businesses.

Chancellor Philip Hammond said in his autumn budget statement that the UK government is open to proposals about a potential Mid Wales growth deal.

Rowland Rees-Evans, Mid Wales Tourism chairman, told the organisation's annual meeting that a Growth Mid Wales Partnership had been set up to take the proposal forward.

He said: "Ministers are talking about our region and there has now been the promise of money coming from Westminster. As we are four years behind the City Deals in Cardiff and Swansea, we must keep knocking at the door and talking to politicians. It's the only way in the future that we will get things done because the money available in the public sector is decreasing. I feel positive about the proposal because, currently, Mid Wales has very little support."

Caravan firm expands with help from HSBC bank

A CARAVAN park business is expanding after securing an £800,000 finance facility from HSBC.

Pen Y Pentre Caravan Park, at Llanguyniew, near Welshpool, already has a host of pitches for holiday makers – and now it has been given the substantial sum of cash to expand.

The new six-acre site includes 35 static caravans, which are all privately owned for holiday use, as well as a three bedroom residential chalet.

Teresa Isaac, who co-owns the park with husband, John Isaac, said: "John and I are thrilled to open our second caravan park with support from HSBC.

"My family have a long history of owning caravan parks so we are proud to be able to continue the tradition.

"We have worked with HSBC for many years so the team, led by our relationship manager, Alison Talbot, has a full understanding of our finance requirements and has been instrumental in ensuring this latest acquisition was as seamless as possible."

The site is run by the husband and wife team and sits just six miles from their first park, Parc Cynhinfa, which was bought 14 years ago.

Area director for HSBC in north and mid Wales, Martin Lyons, said: "HSBC is dedicated to helping small businesses grow so we are delighted to support Teresa and John Isaac with the purchase of their second caravan site."

"We look forward to working with them again as they continue to build the business over the coming months and years."

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A new cosmetic consultant with a special interest in aesthetic breast surgery, body contouring and liposculpture has joined the team at Nuffield Health Shrewsbury Hospital.

After a very successful open event in 2017, Mr Ismail is delighted to be able to offer another evening on Thursday 8th February 2018.



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Mr Ismail joins Mr Dan Prinsloo in offering plastic surgery at Nuffield Health Shrewsbury Hospital for more information on the services available please go to:
nuffieldhealth.com/hospitals/shrewsbury/cosmetic-surgery

Make sure you are ready for the road

Commercial feature

Plunging temperatures and icy roads mean it is vital to ensure your vehicle is fit for the road.

The winter months are some of the worst for motor insurance claims so it is a crucial time to look after your car.

It's important to prepare your car well when you are driving in winter. The colder weather brings with it more difficult driving conditions and the increased risk of a breakdown. As a result, motorists can often find themselves unexpectedly stranded in their vehicles. Our vehicles need a bit of extra TLC at this time of year as we put them through their paces on journeys through wind, rain, sleet and snow. Carry out a few routine checks to ensure your wheels are up to the rigours of winter driving. Spend a bit of time on this now and it could save you the hassle and financial burden of an avoidable breakdown or accident further down the line. Make sure your vehicle is serviced.

We are lucky in the Welshpool and Oswestry area that we have many top quality garages happy to give advice and carry out the work that is needed to ensure your car can handle the bad weather.

They offer MOTs and services at competitive prices, giving you the peace of mind that your vehicle can handle the colder weather.

For other journeys you can consider renting cars or vans from our local firms.

It is important to ensure which ever vehicle you are using that it is ready for the road. You can regularly check the oil level, anti-freeze, hazard lights, wiper blades and battery.

Check the tyres for tread depth and pressure. Upgrade to a set of winter tyres for your car.

Clean your lights regularly and check the bulbs and make sure you're carrying de-icer and an ice scraper. De-ice your car before you travel, and ensure all windows are fully cleared of snow, frost and condensation.



Local garages in the Oswestry and Welshpool area will ensure your car is ready for adverse weather

Prepare an emergency breakdown kit, including a torch, bottled water, blanket, warm and waterproof clothing and a first aid kit and other items to pack include a reflective triangle, high-visibility jacket, jump leads and shovel.

Also think about leaving a selection of snacks and drinks in your boot in case you end up stuck in your car.

Spend time planning your journey, and don't

make unnecessary trips if the weather has turned.

Leave extra time for journeys in poor weather and tune into your local radio for regular traffic and weather reports and advice.

Ensure your mobile is fully charged and for longer journeys, let someone know when you expect to return.

No matter how long or short the journey, it's

vital to be extra vigilant on the roads during the winter.

Leave more space between you and the car in front, and drive more slowly.

Stay alert at all times and look out for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

In cold or icy conditions, try to avoid braking hard.

Dropping gears instead of applying brakes



Make sure your car is ready for the colder weather conditions

can prevent skidding. When wild weather is on its way, that's the time to check your car policy is fully up to scratch.

If you don't have comprehensive breakdown cover in place, buy it now. It's a policy that doesn't need to cost the earth, and will give you peace of mind that you're protected and could prevent you having to endure a long wait in the cold.

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Alter lifestyle for better health this year

Commercial feature

Feeling bloated, broke and battered? Join the club – Christmas and New Year is well and truly over – and now is the time to look at changing your lifestyle for better health in 2018.

We asked some health experts for their top tips for a January refresh.

SAY GOODBYE TO WINE FACE

Waking up with a puffy face and dark circles under your eyes from too many glasses of vino was likely a familiar sight in December. Now that party season is over, it can take time for our skin to recover from excess wine and fizz. "Alcohol affects your skin in many ways," says dermatologist Dr Justine Hextall from The Harley Street Medical Group. "Keeping hydrated and applying an antioxidant eye serum will help with noticeable eye bags," she advises.

For a cheaper and more holistic approach, nutritionist Christine Bailey suggests loading up on lunchtime watermelon to give skin a January boost. "Like berries, watermelon is a fabulous source of potent antioxidants," she says.

BANISH THE BLOAT

You've devoured the mince pies and gobbled too much turkey.

It was fun at the time, but now you've started to resemble Father Christmas with a festive bloated belly.

Rob Hobson, head of nutrition at Healthspan, explains: "A poor diet can mess with the balance of bacteria in your gut, which can cause bloating." He suggests sipping on mint tea after eating. Not only does it ease digestion, but it will relax the gut wall and relieve excess gas.

INVEST IN EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Being cooped up in close quarters with family, with mountains of washing up and too much booze on the go, can get pretty stressful at the best of times. When January comes around,



Too much wine can cause a puffy face and bags under your eyes

your emotional health may need as much of a boost as your body. Healthspan psychologist, Dr Meg Arroll, believes that at the start of the year, is important to take some time out for you. "The festive period can leave you mentally and emotionally drained. Engage in activities such as diaphragmatic breathing, yoga, Tai Chi, meditation and mindfulness to combat a chronic stress state."

GIVE YOUR GUT FLORA A BOOST

You've beaten the bloat, so now it's time to give your gut a boost and keep your microbiome in check. "Too much stress and too many late nights can put your gut bacteria out of balance, which can lead to reduced immunity and make you more susceptible to winter bugs," says Helen Bond, a dietitian from ProVen Probiotics. She suggests improving

your microflora by eating fermented foods such as kimchi, sauerkraut, and fermented milk drinks like kefir.

HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE

You might be undertaking dry January, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't keep a glass beside you all day. "Drinking alcohol dehydrates your body, causing your kidneys to send water straight to your bladder, instead of



Experts suggest slurping down six to eight glasses of water daily

being absorbed into the body," says Dr Anshu Bhagat. Christine recommends counteracting this by slurping down six to eight glasses of water daily. She also suggests including hydrating herbal teas, like green and white tea, which are rich in antioxidants. If glugging water doesn't appeal, then watermelon is your friend. Watermelon is high in many essential nutrients that can be depleted by alcohol.

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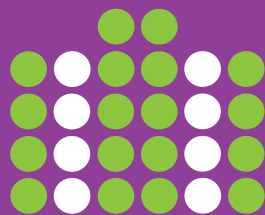


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Couple are top bargain hunters



Top bargain hunters Graham and Jane Rees from Gobowen with TV antique expert Eric Knowles

A COUPLE are celebrating after coming out on top in the BBC One show Bargain Hunt.

Jane and Graham Rees of Gobowen near Oswestry were on the show when it aired on Monday last week. The pair won, making a profit on each of the three items they sold at auction and a grand profit of £111 to beat their opponents.

The pair were accompanied by expert Kate Bliss as they searched for profitable items to take to auction at an antique fair in Park Hall, before taking their purchases to Trevanion and Dean in Whitchurch to resell them.

Filming took place over two days, and Jane spoke highly of the team and presenters. She said: "They were all

brilliant to work with. It was great fun, even though it was a bit nerve-racking being in front of the cameras. I am so glad that we did it, and it was made even better by the fact that we won. We sold two pieces of silver jewellery and an Edwardian hat and coat hook, and we won the Golden Gavel prize for making profits on all three items as well."

Parking fee idea may be scrapped

Student George gears up for road racing success



North Shropshire College student George Evans in action

A COLLEGE is celebrating the sporting success of one of its students.

George Evans has recently started studying Access to Higher Education science at the Oswestry Campus of North Shropshire College.

The 20-year-old has already had an excellent start to his athletic career, including a win in the Welsh Elite Time Trial Championships and a fifth place in the Amateur World Time Trial Championships in Albi, France.

George has a first category road racing licence, which allows him to enter many higher level road racing and time trial events throughout the UK and abroad. He said the college gives him the perfect way

to combine his sport with studying. He said: "I have really enjoyed my time so far studying at North Shropshire College. The access course has given me the perfect opportunity to progress on to university to study sports and exercise science."

"My time management skills and drive to succeed both academically and professionally in my cycling has really helped me to get the most out of the course, and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who wishes to go to university."

North Shropshire College is preparing to host a careers event, due to take place on January 31 at the Oswestry campus and February 1 at the Walford campus. Both events will run from 2pm to 6pm.

Report by Aimee Jones

A PROPOSAL to introduce parking fees at the railway station which serves Oswestry looks set to be dropped.

Following a 10-week public consultation last autumn, Shropshire Council has now revealed its updated parking strategy.

Under the plans, on-street parking in Shrewsbury's town centre is set to rise more than 50 per cent and new linear hourly rates would be introduced for all of the council's car parks.

The linear pricing means people pay the same amount for each of the hours they park.

The strategy also reveals the council is moving ahead with controversial plans to charge for parking until 8pm instead of 6pm in Shrewsbury and Ludlow, but not in other market towns.

And under the proposed strategy, parking at Newport Road in Market Drayton, Gobowen railway station near Oswestry and Crown Hotel in Albrighton will remain free despite initial suggestions it would be charged at 30p an hour.

The plans were due to be discussed by cabinet members at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

Transport commissioner Kevin Aitken said the council has assessed all 2,486 responses to the consultation and has made a number of changes to the plans, including retaining a "pop and shop" period, which had been under threat.

"People's parking habits will completely change if this is successful," he said.

"We want one parking policy for the whole county."

"At the moment there are different charges for different places and it's confusing."

"This will make it a level playing field."

The strategy recommends introducing linear tariffs in all council car parks with a cap after eight hours on band four, five and six car parks.

Mr Aitken said the strategy is also designed to help reduce pollution across the county.

The strategy will affect car parks in Oswestry run by Shropshire Council.

Other car parks in the town, including the large Central Car Park, are run by Oswestry Town Council and will be unaffected by the proposed new strategy.

Everything you need for your perfect wedding day

Commercial feature

SHROPSHIRE'S largest wedding fayre returns for its 24th year, with more than 40 exhibitors all under one roof, providing everything couples need for their perfect day.

The Telford Centre's Wedding Fayre runs from January 25-28, with a range of beautiful and inspiring stands, transforming the malls into a wedding wonderland.

Centre stores are also on hand to help couples organise their special day.

The event, a highly-anticipated date in the calendar for more than 20 years, attracts a wide variety of wedding services from across the region, making the event the ultimate wedding planning destination.

Element

Featuring all the wedding essentials – from discovering the perfect venue and finding the dress of your dreams to sampling delicious cakes, browsing the fabulous floral centrepieces and booking your romantic honeymoon – it's your one-stop-shop to experience every element of your dream day.

Shoppers are invited to register their details during the three-day event to receive a free goody bag filled with bridal essentials and exclusive retailer offers.

Moss Bros, Skopes, Peter Posh and Kings Menswear will be on hand to ensure the groom's party also have their chance to shine on the day.

One of the most important parts of the wedding planning process is



Bridal dresses will be on display from Champagne and Roses

picking the perfect wedding ring. The Telford Centre boasts a wide range of respected jewellers, with Beaverbrooks, TH Baker, F Hinds, Ernest Jones, Warren James, H Samuel and Pandora amongst the stores displaying dazzling diamonds and beautiful bridesmaid gifts.

Shropshire is home to some of the Midlands' most stunning wedding venues. Those showcasing their facilities at the exhibition include Buckatree Hall Hotel, Madeley Court Hotel and The Park House Hotel.

Make an entrance on your special day, by arriving in style. From

limousines to sports cars and horse-drawn carriages, there's plenty of choice to catch the eye of your wedding party.

And of course, no wedding is complete without flowers and cake, so there'll be suppliers of these vital components along with balloons, stationery, entertainment, gifts and photographers.

With all this and more, the Telford Centre's Wedding Fayre is the ultimate wedding shopping experience.

Visit the event website for updates and offers: www.telfordweddingexhibition.co.uk



Come along to Shropshire's largest Wedding Fayre on 25-28 January.

We'll have experts on hand to help you create your dream day.

DEBENHAMS PRINCE OF WALES HOUSE OF FRASER

For more details visit telfordshopping.co.uk

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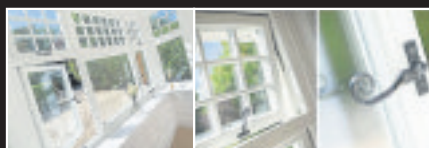
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

19
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, January 18, 2018

Period property retains a wealth of original features

In an attractive established residential area, Y Bwthyn on Weston Avenue in Oswestry is a period semi-detached house retaining a wealth of original features.

Within walking distance of the town centre, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £177,500 with no chain. It is also close to schools and colleges. With gas central heating it has an entrance hall, a living room, dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, cloakroom/WC, a front garden and a large rear garden with a patio area and two store sheds. In more detail the entrance porch leads to the original front door. The entrance hall has a fitted carpet over original floor tiling.

The living room has a bay window, a feature fireplace with a gas fire and a picture rail and fitted carpet.

Also with a gas fireplace housing a gas fire, the dining room has French doors to the patio, ceiling coving and fitted carpet.

Having a range of wall and base units, the kitchen has worktops, a stainless steel sink, plumbing for a washing machine, plumbing for a dish washer, a space for a fridge, a door to the outside, under-stairs cupboard, a boiler and laminate flooring. Upstairs is a galleried landing with fitted carpet. Bedroom one overlooks the rear and has an original cast iron fireplace housing a gas fire and boarded flooring. Bedroom two, which overlooks the frontage of the property, also has an original cast iron fireplace housing a gas fire and fitted carpeting. Bedroom three also has views over the property's frontage, and has fitted carpeting. The family bathroom has a white suite comprising a bath, a pedestal wash hand basin, a hot water cylinder and an airing cupboard.

There is also a cloakroom with a white coloured low level WC.

Outside, the front entrance is approached via a gated pathway and bordered by a low hedge. The front garden is lawned and there is a large lawned garden to the rear with side access, two store sheds and a patio area.

KEY FEATURES

Period property

Original features

Semi-detached

Three bedrooms

Mature residential area

OSWESTRY

£177,500



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: JJ Dell & Co

TEL: 01691 653437

EMAIL: property@jldell.co.uk



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Property sits in a most attractive rural location

WYKEY, RUYTON-XI-TOWNS
£525,000

Stone House occupies a most attractive rural location on the outskirts of the small hamlet of Wykey approximately one mile from Ruyton-Xi-Towns with its local facilities.

The property, understood to date back to the early 19th century, is constructed of sandstone and part rendered under a slated roof. It has a garden and approximately three and a half acres of land.

The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £525,000. Accommodation comprises an entrance lobby, sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, inner hallway, study/bedroom, rear entrance and shower room.

There are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Property is spacious and in much sought after area

ST MARTINS
£369,950

<<<

A desirable and spacious five bedroom detached family home, Inch Murrin in St Martins, is in a much sought after area.

It is on the market through Town and Country for £369,950 and there is no chain. Local part exchange would be considered. The property is a magnificent family residence which has been built to a high specification throughout and benefits from entrance hall, cloakroom, office/sitting room, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, two master bedrooms with en-suite and a further three bedrooms and family bathroom.

Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this beautiful property.

For more details contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.

J. J. DELL & Co.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

LLANMYNECH

NEW

- Attractive Detached Bungalow
- Central Village Location
- OFCH & PVC DG
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Conservatories
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage And Utility
- Ample Car Parking
- EPC Band - D

JJD990

GUIDE PRICE £159,950

OSWESTRY

- Period Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House In Quiet Residential Area
- Within Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- GFCH And Period Features
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Front Garden
- Large Rear Garden
- EPC Band - E

JJD988

GUIDE PRICE £177,500

GOBOWEN, NR. OSWESTRY

- Retirement Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- Minimum Age 55 Years
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Cloakroom
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom/Wet Room
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Courtyard
- Short Distance From Office
- EPC Band - D

JJD986

GUIDE PRICE £104,950

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Attractive Mid Terraced Property
- Central Village Location
- OFCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Kitchen Diner
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Walk-In Wardrobe
- Loft Room/Office
- Front And Rear Gardens
- On-Street Parking
- EPC Band - E

JJD978

£140,000

WYKEY, RUYTON XI TOWNS

- Early Nineteenth Century Country Property
- In total Approx. Three And A Half Acres
- OFCH & DG
- Three Reception
- Conservatory
- Kitchen & Utility
- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- Outbuildings
- Gardens & Pool
- EPC Band - E

JJD985

GUIDE PRICE £525,000

OVERTON ROAD, NR. ST. MARTINS

- Spacious Detached Character Cottage
- Set Within Extensive Grounds
- Reception Hall
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Large Living Room
- Four Bedrooms (One En-Suite)
- Parking For Up To 6 Cars
- Large Garage
- Workshop/Annex
- EPC Band - F

JJD953

GUIDE PRICE £410,000

ST. MARTINS

- Detached Three Bed. Bungalow On Generous Plot
- GFCH & DG
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Attic Room
- Garage/Store
- Four Workshops
- Gardens And Ample Parking
- EPC Band - E

JJD960

GUIDE PRICE £254,999

TREFONEN, NR. OSWESTRY

- Spacious Detached House Occupying Attractive Position
- Shropshire Plain
- Reception Hall
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Utility
- Cloakroom & Study
- Five Bedrooms
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Large Garden Plot
- Double Garage
- Solar Panels
- EPC Band - D

JJD969

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £425,000

OSWESTRY

NEW PRICE

- End Terraced House Within Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- GFCH
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen And Cellar
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Yard
- EPC Band - E

JJD981

GUIDE PRICE £134,995

NR. OSWESTRY

NEW

- Range Of Attractive Traditional Stone Barns
- Suitable For Re-Development
- Desirable And Picturesque Hamlet Location
- Mains Electricity And Water Available

JJD989

GUIDE PRICE £425,000

NR. OSWESTRY

NEW

- Former Limestone Quarry
- Extending To 4.927 Acres Or Thereabouts
- Natural Woodland
- Lending Itself To A Range Of Available Opportunities And Recreation

JJD991

GUIDE PRICE £32,500

WESTON, NR. OSWESTRY-TO LET

- Two Bed. Semi-Detached House
- CH & DG
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Car Parking
- Rent £500 pcm. Deposit £900.
- Agreement £180 inc. VAT
- References Required
- EPC Band - C

JJD097

RENT £600 PCM

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212



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oswestry@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

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01691 622534
Old Town Hall, The Square,
Ellesmere, SY12 0EP
ellesmere@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Wrexham
01978 340000
1 King Street, Wrexham, LL11 1HF
wrexham@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Llangollen
01978 860346
34 Castle Street, Llangollen, LL20 8RT
llangollen@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Chirk
01691 772443
2 Church Street, Chirk,
Wrexham, LL14 5HA
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

NEW




Trefonen Road Morda £280,000

- An immaculately presented 3 bedroom detached family home
- Set on the edge of the popular village of Morda
- Outstanding views to the rear over open countryside.
- The property has been extended and tastefully renovated throughout
- Entrance Hall, Shower Room/Utility, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge
- 3 Bedrooms, family bathroom
- uPVC Double Glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating C (74)
- Garage and gardens with views to rear.

NEW




Twmpath Lane Gobowen £330,000

- FOR SALE BY ONLINE AUCTION (UNLESS SOLD PRIOR OR WITHDRAWN)
- An interesting investment/development opportunity comprising of a row of four, 2 bedroom terrace houses
- The four cottages sit on a generous size plot (approx. 0.32 acre)
- Offering ample off road parking and gardens to the rear.
- The cottages offer spacious living accommodation each comprising: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas Fired central heating and UPVC double glazing throughout all of

NEW




Moors Bank St Martins £155,000

- A well presented three bedroom semi detached house
- Situated in the popular village of St Martins with a wide range of amenities
- Easy access onto the A5/A483 is also available from the village.
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen, Dining Room, Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms and Family bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- EPC Rating E (43)



Minshall Place £84,995

- NO CHAIN
- Spacious and well maintained Leasehold 2 Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- Rear garden laid mainly to lawn

NEW




Upper Brook Street Oswestry £104,995

- NO CHAIN
- A well presented two bedroom mid terrace property
- Situated on the fringe of the town centre.
- Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
- Gas Fired Central Heating and Double Glazing
- An Ideal First Time or Investment Purchase.



NEW




Hillside Oswestry £104,995

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- The property requires modernization throughout.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge
- Kitchen and Dining Room
- 3 Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Generous sized garden, close proximity the famous Old Hill fort
- EPC Rating G (9)
- NO CHAIN

NEW

Overton Road St Martins £199,995

- NO CHAIN
- An immaculately presented 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- The property was constructed in 2000
- Hallway, Cloaks, Kitchen/Dining Rm, Utility & Lounge
- Master Bedroom with en-suite
- 3 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Ample off road parking for at least 4 cars, large garage
- Private courtyard style garden to front & rear
- Gas C/H and UPVC double glazing, EPC Rating C (69)



Regent Court Oswestry £110,000

- Well appointed 1 Bedroom First Floor Apartment in Regent Court
- A purpose built retirement complex with modern amenities
- Living/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom, Bedroom One and Dressing Room
- The complex itself has a 24 hour




Milars Field Oswestry £189,995

- An excellent 4 Bedroom Family Home
- Situated within a popular residential location
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Lounge (with Juliet balcony)
- Master Bedroom and En-Suite
- 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Low maintenance private rear garden
- Single garage and parking area
- Gas C/H. D/G EPC Rating B (82)




Kingsvale Baschurch £289,950

- PART EXCHANGE OR HELP TO BUY IS AVAILABLE
- BRAND NEW 4 Bed detached home
- Open plan Kitchen and Dining area, Utility & Cloaks
- Master Bedroom & En-suite
- 3 further Beds and Family Bathrm
- Enclosed rear garden, Garage & Driveway
- PART EXCHANGE OR HELP TO BUY IS AVAILABLE
- BRAND NEW 2 Bed detached bungalow
- Situated in the popular village of Hadnall
- Living & Dining Rm with French doors & Bay window
- Master Bed & en-suite shower rm
- Separate garage & Driveway




Liansantffraid £290,000

- NO CHAIN
- A traditional 3 bedroom detached black and white stone cottage
- Set on the outskirts of the popular village of Liansantffraid
- Half an acre of land and is surrounded by open countryside
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen/Dining Area, Living/Dining Room
- Conservatory, Sitting/Family Room, Garden Room and Shower Room
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Large gardens with a raised decking area, large driveway
- Summerhouse and double garage
- EPC Rating G



Rowan Close Gobowen £159,995

- An well appointed 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Well maintained front and rear garden
- Off road parking
- Gas C/H and hardwood D/G
- EPC Rating D (65)






Morda Road Oswestry £325,000

- A recently modernised 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- lovely outlook across Oswestry Cricket Ground, perfect for cricket lovers.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen
- Breakfast Area, Dining Room and Sun Room
- 3 good sized Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- An enclosed lawn area, with patio providing an outdoor seating area.
- Gravelled driveway to front & rear Driveway leading to Double Garage.
- Gas C/H and UPVC Double Glazed windows




Meadowdale Llanymynech £128,000

- Prices Starting from £128,000
- PHASE ONE - NEW RELEASE
- BRAND NEW HOME TO BE COMPLETED SPRING 2018
- Backing onto the Montgomery Canal on a small residential development comprising of just 35 plots
- Properties include choice of fully fitted kitchen with oven, hob & hood
- Colour choice of bathroom and kitchen tiling along with carpets and all floor coverings to bathroom
- WC and kitchen. 10 year CRL Warranty.

Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant £450,000

- A stunning Grade II Listed Farmhouse
- Situated in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley
- Reception Hall; Music Room; Sitting Room; Dining Room
- Kitchen Lounge; Kitchen; Utility Room; Rear Lobby; Pantry
- Coal House; Gallery Landing; Loft
- Storage Room; Integral Garage
- Gun Room; Cellar; 5 First Floor Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom; 5 Attic Rooms
- Large Gardens; Orchard/Paddock.



Abraham Court Oswestry £79,995

- This beautifully appointed ground floor purpose built apartment
- House Manager with Carline backup ensuring help 24 hours a day
- Camera controlled entry phone system
- Sealed unit D/G & night storage heating
- resident's lounge & Guest suite with en-suite facilities




Hampton Rise Oswestry £325,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated within a desirable established residential location
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom
- Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room & Utility
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens
- Driveway and single garage
- Oil central heating & Double glazing
- Gas C/H and UPVC Double Glazed windows
- EPC Rating D (60)
- NO CHAIN




Hawthorn Grove Oswestry £115,000

- A 2 Bedroom Mid-Terraced house
- Within a popular residential area
- Hall, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- enclosed rear garden laid mainly to lawn
- Paved patio area directly off the rear of the property
- Parking to the front of the property.
- UPVC Double Glazing and Gas C/H.
- EPC Rating D (56). NO CHAIN




Upper Brook Street Oswestry £125,000

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Terraced Cottage
- Period features including beams to ceilings and inglenook fireplace
- Large rear garden (approx. 150' long), garage and workshop
- Living Room, Inner Hall/Breakfast Area, Kitchen
- Rear Lobby and Bathroom and 2 good size Bedrooms.
- Gas fired central heating. EPC Rating



Building Plot Chirk Bank £74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct



Semi-detached home dates from the 1830s

KNOCKIN HEATH, OSWESTRY
£230,000

An attractive semi-detached residence believed to date from the 1830s, 2 Sandstone Cottages, Knockin Heath, Oswestry, is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £230,000.

The property is set in a small rural community with good road links to the county town of Shrewsbury.

The extended ground floor accommodation includes a porch, a lounge, a kitchen/dining room and a shower room. Upstairs there are two bedrooms.

Outside is ample parking and an outbuilding in rear garden.

For more details about the property and to book a viewing, contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



Country cottage in idyllic setting is beautifully presented

MOELFRE
£380,000

<<<

A beautifully presented three-bedroomed detached country cottage in an idyllic setting, Garreg Lwyd at Moelfre near Llansilin has been sympathetically renovated.

Being tastefully decorated and having stunning views towards the Berwyn Mountains and Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £380,000.

The property is warmed by oil central heating and has double glazing. The gardens are lawned and shrubbed to the front and rear, with a barbecue and seating area ideal for entertaining.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a living room, a conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, three bedrooms, one en-suite and a bathroom.

Contact 01691 679631.

SALES

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Leighton, Powys

A detached bungalow with self-contained annex with gardens and a paddock

Reception Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Master Bedroom, En Suite Shower Room, Two Further Bedrooms, Bathroom, Oversized Garage, EPC Rating D, Self-Contained Annex, EPC Rating D

2.55 acre (1.03 ha)
Guide Price £445,000

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RICS



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- 2 Bed 2nd/F Flat, Elect Heating, No Pets, (EPC =32) (£395 dep)£295 pcm
1 Bed 2nd/F Flat, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 67) (£410 dep).....£310 pcm
First Floor, Apart, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 34) (£495 dep)£395 pcm
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 68) (£570 dep)£470 pcm
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EP = 57) (£ 595 dep)£495 pcm
2 Bed Furnished Sec/Floor Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 6) (£800 dep)£525 pcm

LLANSANTFFRAID

- 3 Bed Semi-Det Barn Conversion, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPE =77) (£695 dep).....£595 pcm

Fees: Application Fee: £40 Lease Fee: £150



**20 Marshfields, Maesbury Marsh
£119,950**

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in the village of Maesbury Marsh. The property is set in well balanced gardens with double glazing and oil central heating installed. EPC Rating = E(52)
●●● No Chain ●●●

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**19 Dolafon, Penybontfawr
£126,500**

Semi detached village house. Lounge with open fire. Kitchen/breakfast room and utility. Three bedrooms and four piece bathroom. Double glazed & part oil-fired central heating. On-site parking provision. Enclosed garden. Overlooking adjoining countryside. EPC Rating = F.

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**17 Marshfields, Maesbury Marsh
£137,500**

Well presented two bedroom semi-detached bungalow. The Montgomery Canal is just minutes away from the house. Off road driveway parking, double glazed, oil c/heating and log burner in the lounge. EPC Rating = 62(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



4 Offa Drive, Oswestry £139,950

Improved 3 bedroom semi-det house. Convenient town centre location. Quite street with garden and driveway parking. Double glazing and gas heating. Smart fitted kitchen / dining room and contemporary bathroom. No upward chain. EPC Rating = 66(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**2 Rowlands Close, Morda
£159,950**

BRAND NEW 3 bedroom semi-detached house with garage, garden and parking located on the edge of the village. Asking price includes carpets. The image is an artist's impression. Completion anticipated March 2018. EPC Rating = B

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Plot 32 Meadowdale
Llanymynech £174,950**

BRAND NEW HOME TO BE COMPLETED SPRING 2018. A three bedroom detached house with garden, carport and parking to be constructed backing onto the Montgomery Canal on a small development of 35 plots. Located on the edge of the village between the Village Hall and the Canal/Heritage area. EPC Rating: B

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Plot 33 Meadowdale
Llanymynech £179,950**

BRAND NEW HOME 3 bedroom detached house with garden, garage and parking to be constructed backing onto the Montgomery Canal on a small residential development. Located on the edge of the village. PLEASE NOTE: The illustration is an artist's impression of a similar style house. EPC Rating = B

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**23 Weston Road, Morda
£179,950**

BRAND NEW HOME 3 bedroom detached house with garden and parking, located on the edge of the village. The photograph shows a similar house on Oakwood Grange under construction. The garage is included on this plot. Anticipated completion early 2018.

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**10 High Fawr Close, Oswestry
£184,950**

Link detached house on popular estate. Three bedrooms. L-shaped living and dining area with dual aspect and rear doors to the garden. Gas c/heating, d/glazing and cavity wall insulation. Attached single garage. Good sized terraced rear garden and sloping garden down off the estate road. EPC Rating = 61(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Bryn Awel, Middleton Rd
Oswestry £210,000**

Detached family house. Two receptions, kitchen/breakfast, g/ floor shower. Three bedrooms and family bathroom. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Ample off road parking, detached workshop. EPC Rating = 45(E).

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**14 Queens Road, Oswestry
£220,000**

Large period terrace house with five bedrooms arranged over three floors, plus useable cellars. Set in an established residential street within the town centre convenient for local amenities, schools, shops and supermarkets. Gas central heating. Garden to rear. For sale with no upward chain. EPC Rating = 55(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**2 Glanrafon Cottages
Pentre Felin £229,950**

Well located in a small hamlet in the Tanat Valley. Affording 2 bedrooms, 2 receptions, kitchen. Oil-fired Rayburn providing domestic hot water. Attached is a single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy - known as number 1. Good sized gardens, range of detached outbuildings. Scope for improvement. EPC rating = 1(G)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**2 Sandstone Cottages
Knockin Heath £230,000**

Attractive semi-detached cottage built from local Shropshire red sandstone and set in cottage style gardens. G/floor lounge, kitchen/dining room and bathroom and upstairs two bedrooms. Ample parking. EPC Rating = E(52)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Shop and 3 Bedroom House,
Gobowen £250,000**

Well appointed retail unit in centre of well served village. Recently re-furnished sales area affording retail and "Local Plus" Post Office. Business available as a going concern. Adj self-contained 3 bedroom house with gas c/heating, double glazing. Private enclosed rear yard with vehicular access. Commercial EPC Rating: 103 (E). Residential EPC Rating: 52 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Tyn-Y-Pistyll, Garth, Glyn Ceiriog
£374,950**

Individual 3 Bedroom Detached House with Outstanding Valley Views. F/ floor open plan living accommodation. Landscaped terraced gardens and woodland. Ample on-site parking adjoining the house. EPC Rating = F(30)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Tontine Inn, Molverley £480,000

Former Public House now affords a large detached residence, well maintained in pleasant location. Recently up-graded home or offers opportunity for B & B. Oil C/H, large sun room, open-plan living/dining room with impressive fireplace. Seven bedrooms all have en-suite bathroom or shower facilities. The grounds afford a range of useful detached stores/ workshop or garage. EPC Rating: 65(C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**Domgay House & Chapel
Four Crosses £550,000**

Substantial & imposing Grade II listed house which dates from around 1800. Maintained to a high standard. Lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen & utility, 3 generous bedrooms, en-suite & main bathroom. Attached Grade II listed former Chapel about 970 Sq.ft. Ample parking & a useful outbuilding adjacent to the garden. EPC not required).

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**Aberystwyth 01970 625020
Llanidloes 01686 412567**

**Machynlleth 01654 702472
Newtown 01686 626160**

**Oswestry 01691 679595
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Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)**



Stunning Grade II farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAEADR
£450,000

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £450,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

In brief, the property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.



Originally forming part of the Wynnstey Estate, the property has an attractive 19th century frontage with an earlier farmhouse now serving as its rear wing. The property has remained in the current owner's family for over 100 years and this sale therefore offers a unique opportunity to purchase one of the area's most historic homes.

Clynog is approached over a well-maintained driveway which is owned by the property with original iron carriage and walking gates leading onto the courtyard with adjoining lawned area which provides access to the property and ample parking.

The agents have been informed it is Grade II Listed and substantial repairs were made to the roof around seven years ago.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Well located property in hamlet comes with cottage

LLANGEDWYN
£229,950 >>>

Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley, 2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin, Llangedwyn, comes with an attached single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy, known as Number 1.

Coming with good sized gardens, a range of detached outbuildings and having scope for improvement, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £229,950.

The main drive approach off the access lane passes by a range of brick/stone and slate roofed detached stores providing ample storage.

A small section is included with No1 Glanrafon Cottages, and is therefore subject to the protected tenancy status.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details about the property and to arrange a viewing.



Historic mill still retains many of its endearing features

ABERBECHAN
£345,000 <<<

Totally flexible accommodation and hugely authentic credentials are among the endearing features of Minhafren Mill in Aberbechan.

For sale through Balfours at offers over £345,000, the property sits some seven miles from Montgomery and is within easy reach of Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Minhafren Mill comprises a black and white timbered two-bedroomed cottage, together with an adjoining two-bedroomed barn conversion with a self-contained annexe.

Dating from the early 17th century, this black and white half-timbered property became a fulling mill in the 19th century, utilising the Bechan brook and adjacent canal for the manufacture and transport of goods. Today the waterways simply add an additional layer of rural idyll and charm.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

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REDUCED

Llanymynech Offers over £95,000
A SPACIOUS FOUR STOREY PROPERTY DATING BACK TO 1860 WHICH HAS RECENTLY UPDATED. WITH THREE BEDROOMS.



REDUCED

Llanrhaeadr Offers over £110,000
A SPACIOUS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE WITH THREE BEDROOMS, OIL CENTRAL HEATING AND LAWNED GARDENS.



NEW

Llangynog £110,000
TRADITIONAL STONE SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE, STUNNING VIEWS.



REDUCED

Oswestry Offers in the region of £112,500
IMMACULATE TERRACED HOUSE WITH TWO BEDROOMS, LARGE REAR GARDEN, CLOSE TO THE TOWN CENTRE. DOUBLE GLAZING AND GAS C/H.



NEW

Oswestry £119,950
NO CHAIN. 2 BEDROOM MID TERRACE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF OSWESTRY TOWN CENTRE



Oswestry Offers in the region of £125,000
RECENTLY UPDATED AND BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM COTTAGE STYLE MEWS CLOSE TO THE TOWN CENTRE, WITH PARKING.



Llanarmon Offers in the region of £139,950
TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED, STUNNING RURAL VIEWS, WELL MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT.



REDUCED

Oswestry Offers in the region of £149,450
THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN.



Oswestry £165,000
ATTRACTIVELY BUILT PARK HOME DESIGNED TO LOOK LIKE TRADITIONAL BUNGALOW and benefiting from mains services. Externally the home is located on its own individual plot with brick paved driveway and gardens. Situated on a gated development in a pleasant, safe and secure location on the edge of Oswestry the park has all local amenities close at hand and is within easy reach of all major road networks. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the lifestyle and accommodation that these homes have to offer.



Oswestry Offers in the region of £168,950
AN EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED, FAMILY HOME.



Oswestry Offers in the region of £179,950
AN EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY WITH REAR GARDEN AND OFF ROAD PARKING.



NEW

Ruabon £179,950
THIS DUPLEX APARTMENT WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN SYMPATHETICALLY CONVERTED TO PROVIDE A MODERN, CONTEMPORARY HOME.



Pant £255,000
THREE BEDROOM, NO CHAIN, COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS, AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING.



NEW

Oswestry £255,000
SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW LOCATED IN SOUGHT AFTER AREA.



Moelfre £380,000
A BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED COUNTRY COTTAGE LOCATED IN THE IDYLIC HAMLET OF MOELFRE, NEAR LLANSILIN.



Moelfre £625,000
A HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND ATTRACTIVE FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME OVERLOOKING MOELFRE LAKE.

26 Film society reveals season of new movies

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, January 18, 2018

OSWESTRY Film Society has announced its seventh season of films showing in the town's Kinokulture community cinema.

The society is showing films on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from January to April. The series started this week, with My Cousin Rachel, the acclaimed Daphne Du Maurier adaptation starring Rachel Weisz.

Michael Hudson, from the society, said: "Our sixth season was the busiest yet, and our seventh has seven films with something for everyone."

"We have the smash hit US comedy The Big Sick, and animated drama in Loving Vincent. Bill Nighy stars in the Victorian murder mystery The Limehouse Golem, and we are especially proud to be featuring the new Dr Who, Jodie Whittaker, in the wonderful Adult Life Skills.

"Everyone's favourite French actor Omar Sy also appears in Chocolat, the story of the circus clown who took Paris by storm in the 1890s.

"There is a strong emphasis on home-grown talent with four British films in our schedule." A season ticket covering all seven films costs £21 and on the door tickets are available at £6 per film.

For more information, to view trailers and buy tickets, visit www.oswestryfilmsociety.com

Bungalow blaze has been ruled as accidental

AN investigation has revealed a severe fire at a remote bungalow was started by accident.

Crews from Shropshire and Powys were sent to the fire at Sychtyn, near Oswestry, on the evening of January 4 after a fire had broken out.

The crews faced trees across the road and a mini landslide as they battled to get to the house where the alarm had been raised by neighbours who heard smoke detectors.

No occupants of the bungalow were at home when the fire broke out and firefighters managed to control the blaze.

Malcolm Stevenson of Shropshire Fire and Rescue service has confirmed the fire was an accident.

He said: "The investigation is still ongoing but there is nothing at this stage to suggest the fire was in any way deliberately started. The investigation is likely to show that this was an accidental fire."

The alarm was raised because Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service had fitted three smoke alarms at the property 18 months ago after a previous severe fire in the area. It proved a difficult evening for crews as a storm raged around the area, forcing firefighters to cut their way through fallen branches and debris.

Exhibition shows history of canal

A PHOTOGRAPHIC exhibition organised by the Canal and River Trust charity is on display at Oswestry Library.

The touring exhibition, which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the Montgomery Canal restoration project, was a success when displayed in Welshpool and Newtown. It brings together a unique record of the canal from 1969 to 2017, as seen through the eyes of several generations of waterway-lovers. Sylvia Edwards, Montgomery Canal community development officer, said: "This exhibition combines photographs from workshops, archives, events and from the current restoration of the canal being carried out by the Shropshire Union Canal Society volunteers.

"For many people, it will be a trip down memory lane and a reminder of enjoyable times and restoration achievements so far." The exhibition will run to January 27 and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am to 5.30pm, and Wednesday 9.30am to 6pm.

On Saturdays it opens 9.30am to 4pm.

Those looking to book a group or school for free photographic workshops or to be involved in the making of a short film about the heritage and wildlife of the canal, can email sylvia.edwards@canalrivertrust.org.uk to register interest.

Family working with authorities on safety improvements after tragic death at show

Report by Jonny Drury

THE family of a teenager who died at the Royal Welsh Show are working with the authorities to improve safety measures at the event.

James Corfield, 19, from Montgomery near Welshpool, left the White Horse pub in Bulth Wells around midnight on July 24, and was found in the River Wye five days later.

An inquest at Welshpool Magistrates Court last week was told how it was believed he walked along a footpath near the river and entered the water.

However coroner Andrew Barkley could not say how he met his death. A statement from the Corfield family said: "We are currently working very hard alongside the four major players in Bulth Wells, to make the whole Royal Welsh event safer, for the young people of Wales."

"There are important and urgent safety issues that have been identified and are currently starting to be addressed. We will be working hard to ensure these improvements will be in place before July to make sure that things will be a lot safer this year."

Police search advisor, Inspector Andrew Pitt, said Louise Corfield reported her son missing at 2pm on July 24.

Mr Pitt said third party involvement in the death was considered after information was passed to the police, but he added: "There is no information of James being involved in a specific incident with any other third party."

He added that the teenager could have been trying to cross the river to reach the 'young persons' village at the show where he was staying.

Duty Sergeant on the day Mr Corfield went missing, Sergeant Weetman told the court that CCTV evidence showed the last sighting of the teenager was at 11.56pm when he crossed The Gro car park.

The footage, shown in court, showed Mr Corfield, who was staying overnight at the show for the first time, walking with three men, before he walked off in the direction of a footpath next to the river.

A number of statements from witnesses who had seen Mr Corfield described him as drunk, with one person saying he was "drunk but in control".

Pathologist Dr Richard Jones said there was 150 milligrams per decilitre of blood in his system, which amounted to just over double the drink drive limit.

He said there was no evidence of foul play or physical injury and he ruled out concerns the death was due to an inherited heart defect.

He said there was no evidence that Mr Corfield drowned.

The family were concerned about CCTV footage from the Gro car park, and believed one man gestured towards the direction that Mr Corfield then walked in, and his mother believes her son was given incorrect directions.

Mr Barkley said he was satisfied Mr Corfield died in the water and not on the land, before recording a conclusion of accidental death.

Report by Aimee Jones

THE A5 through Shropshire has been a dumping ground for unwanted greyhounds in 2017, according to a rescue charity.

Hayley Bradley, who runs Hector's Greyhound Rescue, said it has been one of the busiest years to date and isn't showing any signs of slowing down.

Based in Gobowen near Oswestry, the small charity is the first port of call when a dog is abandoned on the busy road.

"The A5 is such a busy corridor between North Wales and Birmingham for greyhounds to be left and tied up at the side of the road," Hayley said.

"If it hasn't been a successful day at the track, maybe because the dog was low grade and wasn't fast enough, they'll just dump them on the A5."

"I think it's such a popular place to leave them because it's half way between the Midlands and Holyhead where the dogs come over on the ferry from Ireland. It's just so easy to get rid of them and get another."

Saved

Hayley founded the charity over a decade ago and has since saved the lives of more than 1,000 dogs, with the help of a team of dedicated volunteers and foster carers.

Last month she was called to collect an ex-racer who had been left just off the A5 by the orthopaedic hospital in Gobowen.

"It's been absolutely manic with dumped dogs recently," Hayley said. "The dog by the hospital had been tied up and left with a can of baked beans. He'd slept all night in a garden planter."

Hayley said people expect there to be a surge in abandoned dogs in the new year but this year it has started early.

She said: "Since mid-November we've taken in 15 dogs which is high. One was a little 12-week-old whippet-cross puppy called Lilly. They'd bought her for Christmas but she's picked up an injury so they've kicked her out and she ended up in the pound."

It all started for Hayley in 2002 when she met a couple in Border Vets, Oswestry, who ran a greyhound rescue. They were holding an emaciated black greyhound who had been abandoned because he wasn't fit to race.

She spent hours researching the plight of racing dogs before deciding to set up Hector's, which is named after the first dog she rescued.

Iceland makes pledge on plastic packaging



Iceland's first store which was opened in Oswestry in 1970. The chain has now made a pledge to reduce the use of plastic packaging.

FROZEN food specialist Iceland said it is committing to becoming the first major retailer globally to eliminate plastic packaging from all of its own brand products by the end of 2023.

The process starts now, and Iceland, which was founded in Shropshire, is challenging itself to complete it within the next five years.

Iceland's pledge will be an important step towards cutting down on the one million tonnes of plastic generated by supermarkets in the UK each year.

In its place, the firm will be harnessing the latest technologies to create a range of packaging comprising paper and pulp trays along with

paper bags fully recyclable through domestic waste collection or in-store recycling facilities – therefore less harmful to the environment.

Iceland, which opened its first branch in Oswestry in 1970, has already removed plastic disposable straws from its own label range. And its new food ranges, set to hit the shelves in early 2018, will feature paper-based rather than plastic trays.

The supermarket will be providing regular updates on key milestones during the next five years as it transitions to plastic-free packaging.

Iceland managing director Richard Walker is driving this initiative to demonstrate the

potential for the entire supermarket retail sector to go plastic-free as far as possible. He said: "The world has woken up to the scourge of plastics."

"A truckload is entering our oceans every minute, causing untold damage to our marine environment and ultimately humanity – since we all depend on the oceans for our survival."

"The onus is on retailers, as leading contributors to plastic packaging pollution and waste, to take a stand and deliver meaningful change. Other supermarkets, and the retail industry as a whole, should follow suit and offer similar commitments during 2018."

Officers launch clampdown on under-age drinking

UNDER-AGE drinking is being tackled by police across Mid Wales.

Officers in Welshpool and Newtown are among those cracking down on the problem, including the use of fake identification cards.

The operation began with a day of action, #ourbightnightout, on December 22, run alongside the Newtown and Brecon Alcohol Community Partnerships schemes.

Matthew Knight, alcohol community partnership co-ordinator, said: "Nationally this is an issue that is faced by premises licence hold-

ers across the country and operations like this are a pro-active step to tackle the issue as well as alcohol abuse by young persons."

Licensing officer Rod Bowen said: "It is an offence for a young person under 18 to buy or attempt to buy alcohol but this does not always stop it from happening. Most premises that sell alcohol take their legal responsibilities very seriously, operating Challenge 25 policies requiring customers to prove their age."

"In response, some under 18s have obtained fake ID from the internet or borrowing ID from

older siblings or friends with the intention of using it to buy age-restricted products such as alcohol. It is an offence to use false or borrowed ID to buy or attempt to buy alcohol or to gain entry to licensed premises like pubs, bars and clubs."

Mr Bowen said that notwithstanding the potential for a large fine or conviction, a criminal record can affect a young person's future whether further education choices, job prospects, entry visas to other countries or increased car and other insurance premiums.

Retailers and licensed premises have been trained to spot false ID and to report attempts to the police.

Chief Inspector Rhiannon Ivens accompanied officers during the operation, talking to licensees and door staff.

She said "It was a pleasure to work with staff, partners and stakeholders and talk to residents."

"People were in good spirits and reassured to see their local officers out on patrol and keeping them safe."

The Ricket

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Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, January 18, 2018



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Why it's now Strictly business for Ore

Celebrity dancers and their professional partners will return to Birmingham Arena tomorrow (Friday), Saturday and Sunday for five shows.

Strictly Come Dancing fans can feast on the dancing shoes and sequins of Gemma Atkinson and Aljaž Skorjanec; Alexandra Burke and Gorka Marquez; Susan Calman and Kevin Clifton; Davood Ghadami and Nadiya Bychkova; Joe McFadden and Katya Jones; Debbie McGee and Giovanni Pernice; and Jonnie Peacock and Oti Mabuse.

The fabulous celebrities and professional dancers will be joining the tour judging panel of Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell.

To round off the sparkling line-up, the tour will be hosted by reigning Strictly Champion Ore Oduba. They will all be joined by more Strictly professional dancers, the Strictly singers and the Strictly live band.

For Ore, it's a dream come true to be involved in the show once more. He's a Strictly addict who watches every minute of every show.

"If there's a slight mistake, my heart sinks and beats unhealthily fast. Even before the titles run, I can feel what the dancers are feeling. What would be funny is if someone filmed me, Gogglebox-style, watching Strictly. It's like a one-man-band of weird."

Ore admitted he'd missed the show so much that he jumped at the chance to get involved when he was asked.

"I'm not pining to be doing it again, but if there's something I miss it's the camaraderie and the backstage buzz. There's nothing like that buzz."

One of the most popular performers at Birmingham Arena will be Debbie McGee. The star was the surprise package of last year's show and didn't realise the chemistry she'd have with her partner, Giovanni Pernice.

"It's one in a million. We realised we wanted to dance together, but I don't think we realised the absolute chemistry we'd have."

DESERVED

"There's a magic that is happening. The other dancers took the mickey out of us. He really cares, he doesn't just care about me, he cares about everybody. He makes everyone feel special and that's what Paul used to do, and that's what I love about him."

"We've laughed about how similar we are. Why does it happen in life? I don't know. We just have this incredible bond. I don't care because we had the most amazing time and we said, 'Let's just enjoy the last three dances', and for me, all I wanted to do was to do the best I possibly could, which I did, so I'm happy. We all deserved to win. It doesn't matter because we had a great time."

Last year's show was the 15th series of Strictly Come Dancing and featured winner Joe McFadden along with runners-up Debbie McGee, Gemma Atkinson and Alexandra Burke.

Joe says he found himself under pressure during the TV show. "You're concentrating on each move. I know she's (Katya) got her eyes out looking for me doing it wrong and having a turned-in foot when it should be turned out and not having fingers pointed at the end."

Despite his success in the show, Joe and the runners-up didn't stick around to party after the Glitterball presentation.

"There was a little bit of a party Saturday night. The four finalists were all so exhausted – I don't think we partied very hard. And I of course had the obligatory cold which descended instantly, the second I won."

Alexandra Burke made her name on another reality TV show – The X Factor – and has got engaged since Strictly ended just before Christmas.

She shared a photo showing her hand with the words "I said yes" written on it, after getting engaged in Paris on December 18.

"So grateful for this amazing man in my life who has supported my family and I through so much," she added.

"We decided to keep this between us for a while to enjoy this special moment and that's why we haven't

Let's dance – Alexandra Burke and Debbie McGee will perform



If there's something I miss it's the camaraderie and the backstage buzz

said anything . . . Something so amazing honestly felt so overwhelming because there was only one person I wanted to call when it happened. I know she is smiling and very happy for us both - because little did I know she knew about it.

"For those who guessed and have left such beautiful messages – thank you. Josh is someone who makes me so happy and I've never felt this kind of love before. Here's to an amazing future that's filled with love, joy and so much happiness. I love you Joshua Ginnelly. I can't wait to see what our future brings and what God provides for us xxx"

Gemma Atkinson, meanwhile, has fuelled rumours of romance with Ryan Giggs, since the show ended. The duo had a lunch date at a restaurant in Manchester, even though they have denied dating.

Atkinson said she was bored by the speculation: "Anyone I hang about with of the opposite sex, people say I'm going out with. Whenever we all go out together as friends people say we're in a relationship."

Atkinson is best known for her role as Lisa Hunter on Hollyoaks and for the character Tamzin Bayle on Casualty. She also plays Carly Hope on Emmerdale and is an ex-glamour model.

The Manchester entertainer rose to fame on Hollyoaks



and her star has continued to rise. She has previously featured in the reality show Soapstar Superstar as well as Celebrity Weakest Link and Celebrity Mastermind.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

Boycie will star at city literary festival

The full line-up for a city's second literary festival has been revealed by organisers and features Only Fools And Horses actor John Challis, who lives on the south Shropshire border.

It also boasts names including Slade drummer Don Powell.

The three-day festival in Wolverhampton will feature more than 80 events at venues including Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Newhampton Arts Centre, The Slade Rooms, Bantock House and The Grand Theatre.

There are set to be workshops, theatrical performances, debates and

events for children – and there will be the chance to have a go at a short-story writing competition.

It was previously revealed Wolverhampton Literature Festival 2018 would be headlined by award-winning writer and journalist Will Self and feature a discussion panel debating the 50th anniversary of the controversial Rivers of Blood speech by former Wolverhampton MP Enoch Powell.

The first festival was held last year and was headlined by author and journalist, Sathnam Sanghera.

The festival is being held from Friday, January 26, until Sunday, January 28, and will get under way with a Spoken

Word event at the Lych Gate Tavern. The opening event is set to feature poetry, stories, comedy and music from local performers.

John Challis, famous for playing Boycie in Only Fools, will be talking about his career, his autobiography and his first novels that inspired the TV Series, The Green Green Grass.

He is at Bantock House Tractor Shed on the Friday.

On the Saturday, Don Powell with reveal the inside story of Slade.

The musician will discuss the crash which took the life of his girlfriend when he appears at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.



Coming soon...

Young performers rehearse

Youth performance academy, Face2Face, is gearing up for its production of 'Elf the Musical JR'. Based on the much loved holiday film made famous by Will Ferrell, this comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find true identity. The show will be staged at Theatre Severn, on January 25 and January 26. Shows start at 7:30pm on both nights. Face2Face head coach Michael Jenkins said: "The rehearsals for 'Elf' are going swimmingly. The sheer talent of our Face2Face students is mesmerising to witness." Tickets cost £15 and are available from the Theatre Severn website. One pound from each ticket will contribute to fundraising for The Holroyd Community Theatre at Moreton Hall School near Oswestry. The funds raised will help towards the building costs and general start-up of the new community venture. The Face2Face Performance Academy, based at the school, is open to all budding performers in the local community between the ages of nine and 18. At Face2Face, students are given expert teaching in dancing, singing and acting, whilst building confidence and having fun.

Face2Face performance academy are accepting new members. If you'd like the opportunity to perform in a professional venue and be taught by industry experts, get in touch by visiting www.moretonhallschool.com/Face2Face or by following the group on Facebook @F2FAcademy and Twitter @F2FPerformance.



Celebrities pair up for show

Former X Factor and Strictly Come Dancing stars are set to perform in Shrewsbury.

Kristina Rihanoff and Christopher Maloney are to team up in a new dance show. The pair became close pals during their time in Celebrity Big Brother and now they are to appear together in a nationwide tour of glittering stage show 'Dance to the Music'. The new production will showcase every genre of dance, from the 20s to the present day.

The production is the creation of professional dancer and choreographer Kristina, who spent eight years on hit BBC show 'Strictly Come Dancing'.

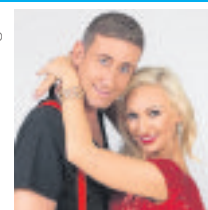
Kristina said: "Dance To The Music is a totally new show with some breathtaking dance routines that I hope the audience will love."

"Chris and I have kept in touch ever since we left the Big Brother house and I'm really excited about working with him. As every fan of The X Factor will know, Chris has got a fantastic singing voice, and I'm very lucky to be joined by him."

In addition to Christopher's vocals, Kristina will once again be paired with her former professional dance partner Robin Windsor, who himself starred on 'Strictly' for four years.

Also gracing the stage will be Oksana Platero, who partnered Judge Rinder on Series 14 of the BBC show.

The show will be coming to Theatre Severn on Wednesday from 7.30pm.



Van is the man for famous Eisteddfod

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod has announced its star-studded concert line-up for 2018, featuring performances from Alfie Boe, Van Morrison, Red Priest, and award winning Welsh folk band, Calan.

The 2018 event will open on Tuesday, July 3, with one of Britain's biggest selling, most popular and best loved vocalists of a generation, Alfie Boe. The hugely successful recording artist and West End, Broadway sensation will be joined by his ensemble of stellar musicians, showcasing his best loved songs and communicating his joy of music, promising spectators an unforgettable evening of showmanship.

On Wednesday, July 4, finalists of the renowned International Voice of the Future Competition, which aims to advance the career of young singers, will entice the audience with breathtaking performances as they compete for the prestigious title and a share of the £10,000 prize fund, which has generously been donated by Pendine Park and the Bryn Terfel Foundation for the second year in a row.

While the judges deliberate on the finalists' performances, the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod's newly appointed music director, Vicky Yannoula, will take to the piano alongside acclaimed pianist Peter Jablonski in a moving collaboration inspired by the power and magic of the piano – so be prepared for musical fireworks.

International competitors from across the globe will unite on Thursday, July 5, promising an immersive sea of vibrant colours and eclectic sounds, as they weave through the audience with their giant flags in the

Van Morrison has enjoyed a legendary career



captivating Procession of the Nations. Special guests for the evening, award winning band, Calan, will set feet tapping with their quirky interpretation of Welsh folk music. The five-piece band will come with accordion, harp, guitar, fiddles and Welsh bagpipes, to entrance the audience with their beautiful and haunting melodies.

Friday, July 6, will see the unparalleled vocal and songwriting talent, Van Morrison, take to the iconic Royal

International Pavilion stage, to perform music from his revered musical catalogue.

One of the most prolific recording artists and live performers in music history, Van Morrison weaves myriad musical influences into his music, including street poetry, jazz improvisation, Irish folk, Afro Celtic Blues wailing, blues, pop, rock, R&B, country and gospel, captivating audiences – it will be an evening not to be missed.

* TICKETS for this year's Whittington Music Festival are on sale.

'Fantasia on a British theme', featuring 17 composers and the return of the Elias Quartet with other world-class artists, has already attracted wide attention.

Chairman Rob Greaves said: "We expect this year's all-British programme to be enormously popular, so it's worth committing to the dates now, even though May is still some distance off."

"And there are two extra factors which make early booking a wise thing to do."

"There's an early-bird deal on the Whole-Festival Pass."

"For a limited period, there's £20 off what would otherwise be the £90 cost of tickets for the week-long series of six

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concerts. You can also book the seat of your choice if you're quick, whether for your pass or for individual concerts.

"Just 70 of our 230 seats can be personally selected and reserved online for each night – they are of course the best seats in the house, but don't cost any more – other than the moderate effort of booking early. That's just £15 per concert."

"Explore the website now, and book your pass or tickets directly or use the alternative booking methods detailed there."

* AN art society has launched its programme for 2018 saying it hopes there is something for all tastes.

The Oswestry and District Society of Artists has organised a number of workshops in which experts will pass on their knowledge to members.

They include a collage workshop by Penny Price, drawing techniques with Malcolm Hague, line and wash by Ian Fennerley, watercolours lead by Judith Farnwork, a day of pastels with Dennis Oaks, an acrylic workshop led by Lesley Fisher and a watercolour day with Rosie Davies.

There will be two main exhibitions of work by society members, one at Chirk Castle at the end of May, the second

at Oswestry's Memorial Hall in July.

Anthony Smith, curator of the Willow Gallery in Oswestry, will provide a critique of member's work in September and other events will include a trip to an exhibition and the annual dinner.

The programme started with a paint together session in the Wilfred Owen Suite at the Memorial Hall, Oswestry this week.

New chairman, Christine Taylor, said: "We have tried to cater for all tastes."

"Our change of venue to the cricket club for workshops has been a great success."

New members are welcome with details from Ann Wilkie on (01691) 718535.

Panto ticket sales top 40,000

MORE than 40,000 tickets have been sold for Shrewsbury's annual Christmas pantomime for the first time ever. Theatre Severn has revealed that sales of tickets for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs have exceeded 40,000, marking a new record. Craig Reeves, Theatre Severn marketing manager, said that they had been thrilled with the success of the latest production. He said: "We have gone past the 40,000 mark for the first time this year which is a really nice landmark."

The pantomime has continued to grow as the theatre's main event of the year. Mr Reeves said that the success of the show is also a boost for the town, as it attracts more than 1,000 people into Shrewsbury every day.

He said: "It is bringing a lot of people into the town. Every day for five-and-a-half weeks we have got 1,100 to 1,200 people coming to see the show. The crowds have obviously been happy with what they have seen with tickets for next year's pantomime, Mother Goose, selling well."



January 20



Casualty
8.20pm
Elle and Jacob realise they must tackle Blake's problems head-on when his friend Miles is admitted to the ED - having been beaten unconscious in his flat.



Live Snooker: The Masters
7pm
Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day seven at Alexandra Palace in London. With commentary by Steve Davis and Ken Doherty.



Through the Keyhole
9.30pm
Keith Lemon invites Paddy McGuinness, Gregg Wallace and Scarlett Moffatt to guess 'who habitates in a house like this', as he invades another three celebrities' homes.



Great Canal Journeys
7pm
Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Norfolk Broads, discovering the unique way of life that has developed around the network of rivers, fens and marshes.



Blind Date
8pm
A dental manager must choose between a picture framer, a health care worker and a sausage maker, and in a Blind Date first, a past contestant is stood up by his date.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. TV screenwriter Kay Mellor joins Michel Roux Jr in the kitchen to sample dishes prepared by chefs Niklas Ekstedt and Amandine Chaignot. Olly Smith selects the wines.
11.30	Mary Berry Everyday. Mary opens her garden to host a village fete and shares her flair for turning easy dishes into spectacular crowd-pleasers, and has a lesson in the art of making authentic pizzas. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines and look ahead to forthcoming fixtures, including the lunchtime Premier League game between Brighton & Hove Albion and Chelsea.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day seven at Alexandra Palace in London.
4.30	Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
5.30	BBC News.
5.40	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.50	And They're Off for Sport Relief. Una Healy, Michael Vaughan, Michelle Ackersley, Mike Bushell and Penny Lancaster tackle the sporting challenge, while members of the public try to predict who will win.
6.30	Pointless Celebrities. Gail Emms, Audley Harrison, David Spinx, Susie Amy, Katy Brand, Brian Belo, Lisa Maffia and Marvin "Romeo" Dawkins compete in a quiz for stars who found fame in the nightglasses.
7.20	Wedding Day Winners. Phil and Beks from Ascot take on Kirsty and David from Swansea, as Lorraine Kelly and Rob Beckett challenge them to compete in a series of tasks for the chance to win a televised wedding and a dream honeymoon. This week's celebrity wedding guests are Jimmy Osmond, McFly's Tom Fletcher and Harry Judd, Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, First Dates maître d' Fred Sirieix, and comedian Tom Allen.
8.20	Casualty. Elle and Jacob realise they must tackle Blake's problems head-on when his friend Miles is admitted to the ED - having been beaten unconscious in his flat.
9.10	BBC News; Weather.
9.30	Hard Sun. The spree killer confesses his sins to a priest, but the seal of the confessional means he is unable to adequately help the police. Sci-fi thriller, starring Agyness Deyn.
10.30	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Chelsea at the AMEX Stadium and Burnley v Manchester United at Turf Moor.
12.00	The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks ahead to the Conference Championship games, joined by former NFL stars Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell.
12.30	FILM: Papadopoulos & Sons (2012). Comedy, with Stephen Dillane.
2.15	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.20	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.10	The Wonder of Animals. The complex communication skills of the dolphin. (R)
6.40	Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. Naomi Wilkinson showcases footage cut from other episodes.
7.10	The Pets Factor. Jabba the Pug receives a vital facelift.
7.30	Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch set up a food face-off.
7.45	Matilda and the Ramsay Bunch. The family learns some Bollywood dance moves.
8.00	The Dengineers. A 10-year-old red-head from Leeds dreams up a gingerbread house den.
8.30	Deadly Top 10. Killer tactics used by animals. (R)
9.00	Robot Wars. An untested robot enters the arena. (R)
10.00	Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge. Part two of two. The naturalist explores caves within the mountains. (R)
11.00	The Snow Wolf Family and Me. Part one of two. Gordon Buchanan explores the lives and habits of Arctic wolves. (R)
12.00	The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. Si King and Dave Myers discover the culinary delights of Corsica. (R)
1.00	A Vicar's Life. Matthew Cashmore is ordained at a grand ceremony in Hereford cathedral. (R)
1.30	Back to the Land with Kate Humble. Kate Humble helps with lambing at a farm in the Lake District. Last in the series. (R)
2.30	Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. Psychiatrist Alain Gregoire reveals how to recognise PTSD. (R)
3.00	Tennis: Australian Open 2018. Action from day six of the opening Grand Slam tournament of the year.
4.30	Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the opening semi-final.
5.30	Tom Kerridge: Lose Weight for Good. Tom Kerridge offers ideas for calorie-counted special treats. (R)
6.00	Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall explores the ancient woods and valleys of Dartmoor, learning about the family life of the long-tailed tit, and tracking down a hibernating dormouse.
7.00	Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the second semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day seven at Alexandra Palace in London.
10.30	Qi XL. Aisling Bea, Russell Brand and Noel Fielding join Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional panel quiz, this time focusing on "The Occult".
11.15	Performance Live: I Told My Mum I Was Going on an RE Trip. Drama exploring Britain's many attitudes to the topic of abortion via raw, recorded delivery performances in which actors recreate authentic testimonies on the subject in real-time.
12.00	Snooker: The Masters - Extra. Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights of the opening semi-final, played over the best of 11 frames on day seven at Alexandra Palace in London.
2.00	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knoch Street 6.20 Bottom Knoch Street 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.55	Scrambled!: Fangbone. Principal Bruce begins a reign of terror. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! Adventures with the Scooby gang. (R)
9.05	Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	James Martin's Saturday Morning. With guests Chris Tarrant and Aggi Sverrisson.
11.20	The Hungry Sailors. Dick and James Strawbridge visit Lostwithiel, Cornwall. (R)
12.20	Countrywise. Protecting fish stocks, transporting cattle and conservation. (R)
12.50	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
1.00	Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present the celebrity skating challenge. Two couples face the first skate-off of the series, which will result in one leaving the contest. (R)
3.00	Celebrity Catchphrase. With contestants David Haye, Andrea McLean and Louis Walsh. (R)
4.00	Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
5.00	The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.00	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.05	ITV News and Weather.
6.20	New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates more comical mishaps filmed by viewers, including a cat demonstrates CPR skills, and a holiday-maker who seems to have forgotten to pack any clothes.
6.45	Take Me Out. A model from the Wirral, a caricaturist from Blackpool, a student from London, and a musician from Brighton all hope to impress Paddy McGuinness's single ladies.
8.00	The Voice UK. Jennifer Hudson, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Olly Murs seek to identify more potential pop icons as they reside over the third round of Blind Auditions.
9.30	Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon invites Paddy McGuinness, Gregg Wallace and Scarlett Moffatt to guess 'who habitates in a house like this', as he invades another three celebrities' homes.
10.30	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.45	FILM: Jaws 3 (1983). A ferocious mother shark comes looking for her dead baby, causing havoc in a Florida marine centre. Thriller sequel, starring Dennis Quaid.
12.30	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Babushka. Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)

Channel 4	
6.00	3rd Rock from the Sun. Part one of two. Dick contemplates marriage. (R)
6.25	3rd Rock from the Sun. Part two of two. Bad dreams haunt Dick. (R)
6.50	The King of Queens. The car breaks down. (R)
7.15	The King of Queens. Carrie discovers how lonely Spence is. (R)
7.40	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray adopts a stray dog. (R)
8.05	Everybody Loves Raymond. The neighbours are upset by Ray's parents. (R)
8.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. A psychotherapist interviews the family. (R)
9.05	Frasier. Roz borrows money from Frasier. (R)
9.35	Frasier. Niles takes part in a festive pageant. (R)
10.05	Frasier. A series of good deeds backfires. (R)
10.35	The Big Bang Theory. Leonard fears he is wasting his time with Penny. (R)
11.05	The Big Bang Theory. Penny hosts a Halloween party. (R)
11.30	The Big Bang Theory. Howard seduces one of Penny's friends. (R)
12.00	The Simpsons. Lisa enters a beauty pageant. (R)
12.30	The Simpsons. Bart is banned from seeing the new Itchy and Scratchy film. (R)
1.00	The Simpsons. With the voice of Barry White. (R)
1.25	Come Dine with Me. More contestants hope to host the most popular dinner in Edinburgh. (R)
2.25	Coast vs Country. A couple looking to move to Cornwall. (R)
3.25	A Place in the Sun. A Brighton-based couple seek a holiday home on Ibiza. (R)
4.30	A Place in the Sun. A couple search for a house in Florida's Sarasota Keys. (R)
5.30	The Secret Life of the Zoo. Black rhino Kitani is due to give birth at Chester Zoo. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Norfolk Broads, discovering the unique way of life that has developed around the network of rivers, fens and marshes. (R)
8.00	Village of the Year. Alex Langlands, Juliet Sargeant and Patrick Grant assess the merits of five villages from the Western Zone, all of which are in with a chance of claiming a place in the grand final.
9.00	FILM: Sicario (2015). Premiere. An FBI agent is forced to question everything she believes when she is recruited to an elite narcotics task force. Crime drama, starring Emily Blunt and Josh Brolin.
11.25	FILM: Salt (2010). A CIA agent goes on the run after she is accused of being a sleeper assassin sent to murder the Russian president. Action thriller, starring Angelina Jolie and Liev Schreiber.
1.10	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)
2.05	The Lie Detective. (R)
2.45	Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Grace tries to take control of Glenn's job. (R)
4.50	The Autistic Gardener. (R)
5.45	Draw It! (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Monkey 6.45 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.40 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Paw Patrol 8.35 Nella the Princess Knight 8.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig
10.00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
10.40	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R)
11.05	Police Interceptors. (R)
12.05	Police Interceptors: Fatal Four. Kev Salter shows presenter Rick Edwards how to spot a drunk driver. (R)
1.05	The A-Team. An orphanage needs the gang's help. (R)
2.05	The A-Team. BA befriends a Mexican girl. (R)
3.05	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A Yorkshire landlord calls in eviction specialists. (R)
4.05	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A woman visits her tenant in prison to retake possession of her flat. (R)
5.05	Rich House, Poor House. Families from opposite ends of the wealth and class divide swap homes for a week. (R)
6.05	The Wonderful World of Puppies. The documentary reveals how dogs learn to communicate with each other, via everything from barks to squeaks and yelps, and subtle gestures with the ears, eyes, tail and snout.
7.00	Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. Joe Pasquale narrates more celebrity pranks, including Caroline Flack's terrifying driverless car journey, courtesy of Olly Murs.
8.00	Blind Date. A dental manager must choose between a picture framer, a health care worker and a sausage maker, and in a Blind Date first, a past contestant is stood up by his date; 5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Nottingham Forest and Leeds United v Millwall.
9.55	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Blackpool and Plymouth Argyle v Wigan Athletic.
10.25	Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.
11.25	The X-Files. The sci-fi mystery drama returns as former FBI agents Mulder and Scully are reunited to investigate a sinister organisation. Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny star. (R)
12.15	SuperCasino.
3.10	GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)
4.00	Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R)
4.45	House Doctor. (R)
5.10	Wildlife SOS. (R)

January 21



Still Open All Hours

7.30pm
Granville encourages Gastric to enter an art competition, and faces the challenge of selling a box full of mysterious tins, despite not knowing what they contain.



The Mash Report

11pm
Nish Kumar presents the satirical take on the week's news, with a team of correspondents keeping viewers up to date with everything that has happened - or not happened - this week.



Dancing on Ice

6pm
Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present disco week, as the remaining 11 celebrities perform to impress the judges and avoid having to compete in a skate-off.



SAS: Who Dares Wins

9pm
The recruits are divided into two teams for a series of challenges designed to test their ability to bond as a group, including a time trial run across the Sahara Desert.



Football on 5: The Championship

10.10am
Highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Nottingham Forest.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
7.25	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Chelsea at the AMEX Stadium and Burnley v Manchester United at Turf Moor. (R)
9.00	The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00	The Big Questions. Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Netherhall School, Cambridge.
11.00	Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	Bargain Hunt. From the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore is joined by Neil Wraggs and Daniel Heath, who turn a pile of rustic hessian sacks into something more classy and update an old felted card table. (R)
2.15	Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson helps a self-confessed city-lover find a Gloucestershire home for £850,000 or less where she can raise her young son. (R)
3.15	Lifeline. An appeal on behalf of the Sick Children's Trust.
3.25	Big Cats. How cats adapt to different environments. (R)
4.25	Songs of Praise. Hymns from the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster.
5.00	The Coronation. Documentary about the Queen's coronation in 1953. (R)
6.00	BBC News.
6.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.30	Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Leicester to discover why spring plants are flowering in winter in the city. She also pays a visit to the city's university to learn about Britain's rare plants.
7.30	Still Open All Hours. Granville encourages Gastric to enter an art competition, and faces the challenge of selling a box full of mysterious tins, despite not knowing what they contain.
8.00	Call the Midwife. New series. A new midwife joins the team as the area is rocked by power cuts and blizzards, but she falls ill as soon as she arrives and soon has to assist with a difficult birth.
9.00	McMafia. Semiyon's fortunes seem to be on the rise - until he is arrested in Tel Aviv. Alex and Rebecca announce their engagement, and Lyudmilla sees a chance to regain her freedom.
10.00	BBC News.
10.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring highlights of Sunday's only game - Southampton v Tottenham Hotspur at St Mary's Stadium.
11.20	Man Like Mobeen. Eight learns that his father is dying. When Mobeen agrees to visit him one last time, he is unprepared for the terrible secret he learns and the favour the old man has to ask.
11.40	Man Like Mobeen. An anti-Islam march comes through the neighbourhood, and Mobeen ends up sharing a police van with the leader when he takes the blame for Aka's counter-protest. Last in the series.
12.05	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.10	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.15	A to Z of TV Gardening. Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter G. (R)
6.35	The Instant Gardener. A low-allergen garden in Northamptonshire. (R)
7.20	Gardeners' World. Joe Swift continues his mission to find the perfect hanging basket. (R)
7.50	Greatest Gardens. Diarmuid Gavin and Helen Dillon visits three gardens in Co Down. Last in the series. (R)
8.20	Monty Don's Paradise Gardens. Part one of two. Monty explores paradise gardens in grand Spanish palaces and secret Moroccan courtyards. Plus, in the Iranian desert, he unravels the mystery to their creation. (R)
9.20	Countryfile. The team reports from the Somerset Levels, where Matt Baker discovers a project to protect the common crane, a bird that now thrives in the area thanks to an unlikely partnership. (R)
10.15	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
11.45	Food & Drink. Tom Kerridge and guest Angela Hartnett discuss how to make high-quality food on a tight budget. (R)
12.15	MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00	Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening eight frames of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where the best-of-19-frames match takes place.
5.15	Ski Sunday. Action from the men's World Cup event in Kitzbuehel, Austria.
6.00	Tennis: Australian Open 2018. Kat Downes presents action from day seven of the opening Grand Slam tournament of the year, which takes place at Melbourne Park, and featured the latest fourth-round matches.
7.00	Live Snooker: The Masters. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the final from Alexandra Palace, London, where a maximum of 11 frames will be played to decide this year's champion.
11.00	The Mash Report. (R)
11.30	Insert Name Here. Adrian Chiles, Suzannah Lipscomb, Sara Pascoe and Anita Rani join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer Sue Perkins' questions about famous people who share a name. (R)
12.00	FILM: All Good Things (2010). The heir of a wealthy family marries a medical student, but is suspected of murdering her when she disappears without trace. Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling and Kirsten Dunst.
1.35	FILM: Good Morning Karachi (2013). A Pakistani woman hopes to pursue a career as a model despite disapproval from her mother and rising tensions in the country. Drama, with Amna Ilyas and Beo Raana Zafar.
3.00	Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Hereford, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
4.00	Sign Zone: Holby City. Essie struggles to use her head over her heart as she gets involved with Gaskell's trial, and Oliver is transferred to AAU for a change of scene. (R)
4.55	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.55	Scrambled!: Ben 10.
8.10	Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. Mr Bean goes on a romantic date. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Spy School. When the voices of the UK's biggest pop stars turn into high-pitched squeals overnight, the Spy School cadets must find the cause.
9.05	Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	River Monsters. A mystery sea monster in a remote lake in Malaysia. (R)
10.00	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine.
11.00	The Martin Lewis Money Show. The financial journalist offers advice on savings. (R)
11.25	The Voice UK. The third round of Blind Auditions gets under way. (R)
12.55	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
1.00	Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. Pen-y-ghent, the smallest fell on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. (R)
1.30	Britain's Brightest Family. Two families battle for a place in the quarter-finals. (R)
2.00	The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. Tensions rise in the galley of the Royal Princess as a health inspection looms. (R)
2.30	FILM: Kindergarten Cop (1990). An undercover cop poses as a preschool teacher to catch a drug dealer whose son is one of the pupils in his class. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
4.35	ITV News Central; Weather.
4.45	ITV News and Weather.
5.00	The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Kian Egan, Sharron Davies, Matt Johnson and Larry Lamb. (R)
6.00	Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present disco week, as the remaining 11 celebrities perform to impress the judges and avoid having to compete in a skate-off.
8.10	Vera. The detective investigates when a mother of two is found dead in her suburban garden - but the case is made more complex when the victim's estranged family put in an appearance.
10.10	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.25	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.25	Next of Kin. Mona travels to Lahore to identify Kareem's body and though the trip presents an opportunity to meet Danny, it instead leads her into grave danger in a remote corner of the city. (R)
12.20	Great Art. Tim Marlow explores the tempestuous life of Michelangelo. (R)
1.10	Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.
3.00	Sunday Night at the Palladium. (R)
3.50	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

Channel 4	
6.10	Jamie's Comfort Food. Jamie Oliver cooks a steak and onion sandwich. (R)
6.20	The King of Queens. A wedding becomes uncomfortable for Doug. (R)
6.45	The King of Queens. A neighbour's dog keeps Doug awake. (R)
7.10	Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra and Ray reminisce. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray appears on a TV sports show. (R)
8.00	Frasier. Roz helps Frasier arrange a date for his father. (R)
8.30	Frasier. Woody pays a surprise visit. (R)
9.00	Frasier. Three Valentine's Day stories. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests Kerry Howard, Ross Noble and Kara Tointon.
12.30	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. With guest Simon Pegg. (R)
1.30	The Simpsons. Homer becomes a tow-truck driver. (R)
2.00	The Simpsons. Marge is stalked by an escaped convict. (R)
2.30	The Simpsons. Homer forgets his wedding anniversary. (R)
3.00	FILM: Capture the Flag (2015). Premiere. Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Sam Fink.
4.50	FILM: Aladdin (1992). Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams.
6.35	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Posh Pawn. New series. Memorabilia expert Lawrence's knowledge of cars is put to the test as James gets his hands on an E-Type Jaguar worth over £100,000. Plus, an extravagant impulse buy.
8.00	The Biggest Little Railway in the World. The train struggles to cross the first hill on the line - which is only a gentle incline compared to the vast rises to come. The team also needs to build a track-stabilising device.
9.00	SAS: Who Dares Wins. The recruits are divided into two teams for a series of challenges designed to test their ability to bond as a group, including a time trial run across the Sahara Desert.
10.00	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts as Jon Richardson and Joe Wilkinson take on guest captain Kevin Bridges and Jessica Knappett. Dr John Cooper Clarke helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
10.55	FILM: Season of the Witch (2011). Two knights escort a suspected witch to trial during the Black Death, but are not prepared for the powers she possesses. Fantasy adventure, with Nicolas Cage and Ron Perlman.
12.45	Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Sprucing up homes in dire need of attention. (R)
1.40	The Lie Detective. Why a couple do not have much of a sex life. (R)
2.25	Grand Designs Australia. A first-time builder constructs a home from concrete. (R)
3.20	Location, Location, Location. Revisiting two couples searching for homes in Devon. (R)
4.15	KOTV Boxing Weekly. Including action from Jamie McDonnell v Liborio Solis.
4.45	Coast vs Country. Sara Damergi and Kerr Drummond search for a perfect holiday house in Dorset. (R)
5.40	Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.10 Thomas & Friends 7.20 Fireman Sam 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.40 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.20 Nella the Princess Knight 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Digby Dragon
9.35	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Part two of two. Raph tries to persuade Mona Lisa and Bishop to work together.
10.10	Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights of Wolverhampton Wanderers v Nottingham Forest. (R)
11.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Highlights of AFC Wimbledon v Blackpool. (R)
11.30	Police Interceptors. A rookie police dog chases a burglar through Middlesbrough. (R)
12.30	FILM: Pixels (2015). Sci-fi comedy, starring Adam Sandler.
2.25	FILM: Big Daddy (1999). Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.
4.10	FILM: Mr Deeds (2002). Romantic comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler and Winona Ryder.
5.15	5 News Update.
5.20	FILM: Mr Deeds (2002). Concluded.
6.00	FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991). An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman.
7.00	5 News Update.
7.05	FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991). Concluded.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of another day from the illustrious inhabitants as they cope with the day-to-day complications of life under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother.
10.05	FILM: Life As We Know It (2010). Two people who do not get on are forced to live together when they are named guardians of their dead friends' baby daughter. Comedy, starring Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel.
12.10	FILM: That's My Boy (2012). A man about to get married finds the big day gatecrashed by his irresponsible father, who wants to rebuild their relationship. Comedy, with Adam Sandler and Andy Samberg.
2.15	SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
4.00	Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. Lovebirds Ross and Claire ask for matching designs, Josh and Conor order up matching tattoos, and Joe and his mates from Southampton request Gary Lineker-themed ink.
4.45	House Doctor. Ann Maurice visits Stepeny in London's East End, where she advises DJ Simon Denny on how to make his two-bedroom converted brewery lodge more attractive to buyers. (R)
5.10	Wildlife SOS. The work of volunteers treating sick, injured and orphaned animals at a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
5.35	Divine Designs. (R)

32 Library appoints its first writer in residence

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, January 18, 2018

A LIBRARY has appointed its first reader and writer in residence.

Dave Andrews, author of ‘The Oswestry Round’ and ‘Gobowen to Everest’, is to be based in Oswestry library during 2018.

He will contribute to the library’s learning and lunchtime talks and will hold creative writing workshops for new and experienced writers.

Mr Andrews has lived near Oswestry for 25 years and is already a regular contributor to events at the library. He has published nine books and is currently working on his 10th, Wilfred Owen: Poet of Oswestry.

“I’m absolutely thrilled to be Oswestry Library’s first reader and writer in residence,” Mr Andrews said. “I like to involve the audience in my talks and always invite comment and discussion.

“I think this is one reason why I tend to choose for my talks well-known authors such as Robert Burns, Thomas Hardy, Dylan Thomas and Wilfred Owen, and well-known works such as Wuthering Heights.

“I’m looking forward as well to the opportunity to talk about the medieval Welsh stories called The Mabinogion, which have influenced so much writing in English and other languages.” Mr Andrews said he was keen to support and encourage local writers who work in either English or Welsh.

Call over shop plan fails to win support

OSWESTRY Town Councillors have declined to support a notice of motion calling for them to raise concerns about plans by Shropshire Council to buy three shopping centres in Shrewsbury.

Councillor Duncan Kerr laid the notice of motion before the council on Monday night asking the authority to “express its incredulity and concern regarding reports in the media that Shropshire Unitary Council have agreed to pay nearly £60 million for three shopping centres in Shrewsbury and committed a further £18 million to improve Shirehall”.

The motion said: “Even if the scheme does deliver the envisaged return, it will mean that for the foreseeable future Shropshire Unitary Council will be dependant on the trading of three retail centres in Shrewsbury to provide statutory care services on which vulnerable people in Oswestry have to rely.”

He suggested building houses would be a better alternative. However, his notice of motion failed to win support from enough councillors. Councillor Chris Schofield said: “This is not town council business. If we want to have a cordial relationship with Shropshire Council this is not the way to do it. It is doing the town council no good if we cannot work with the SUC.”

£100m schools bid wins backing

AMBITIOUS plans that will see over £100 million invested in schools in the coming years has been approved in principle.

Under the plans, submitted to the Welsh Government’s 21st Century programme, Powys could see major improvements to primary, secondary and special school services as part of a joint local initiative running from 2019 to 2025/2026.

A key part of the application will be a major investment in the educational infrastructure in the Newtown area, in order to improve the facilities for vulnerable pupils at Ysgol Cedewain and Ysgol Brynlllywarch, Kerry.

Concern has been expressed at the condition of the existing school buildings and the need for investment to provide improved facilities for the vulnerable pupils.

There will also be investment in some of the town’s primary schools, as well as plans to develop a Welsh-medium all-through four to 18 school in the town.

Cabinet member for schools, Councillor Myfanwy Alexander said: “This is an opportunity to provide a far better infrastructure in which our most vulnerable youngsters are learning.”

The developments could feature other capital projects with public partners, including Powys Teaching Health Board.

Tributes paid and memorial launched to man who died in caravan fire tragedy at farm

THE man who died in a caravan fire at a farm near Oswestry was developing a market garden with the farm owners.

Dean Lee died in a blaze at Babbinswood Farm, Whittington, on Christmas Eve.

A memorial garden has been started at the farm.

Barbara Jones, who runs Oakwood Veterinary Centre at the farm said she met Dean in July.

“He was looking for a new place to be, to develop his own market garden with the help of his horse companion Big Mama; we were looking for someone with experience to scale up our organic fruit and vegetable enterprise,” she said.

“His passion for living off the land, growing

Report by Sue Austin

food in a way that is in harmony with nature yet was affordable to all and to market it to the local community, aligned with our own desires to do this whilst regenerating our land and raising animals with utmost regard to their wellbeing.

Excited

“He joined us in August and we were all excited by the prospect of the joint venture.

“As we got to know Dean, it was clear how passionate he was about treading lightly on the planet.

“He wanted to live a life completely off grid

which we found inspiring and looked forward to watching it evolve.

“At first Dean stayed with us in the house but his need to be independent and outside, under the big sky, together with his preference to dispense with creature comforts that bricks and mortar might bring, brought about the bringing on site of a caravan that he could renovate.

“He lived a simple low impact life that we all need to take steps towards if we are to have a future on Mother Earth and not leave to people like him to compensate for our extravagance.

“Dean loved animals.

“He spoke fondly of his earlier life with various creatures throughout his years.

“He said to me he once wanted to be a vet but

knew the emotional side of the work would be too much for him.

“He respected them as individuals and had aspirations to use horses to help him work the land and maybe to deliver the produce to customers.

“If you were lucky enough to have met Dean in his short time at Babbinswood, or before, you would know how honest and real he was in his quiet way.

Special

“We have started a special place in the garden where people can come and leave tributes.

“We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dean.

“Our thoughts and love are with his family and friends.”

Report by Jonny Drury

CAR owners are being warned after a string of thefts in Oswestry.

The town has been a target for car thieves over recent weeks with more than 10 different reports of people attempting to break into vehicles.

On December 27 multiple attempts were made to enter vehicles in the Border Close area, with five reported thefts in Plas Fynnon since Christmas Day.

Two vehicles on the Llanyrnorch border had items stolen from them in the run-up to New Year, with various other reports from around the Oswestry area.

Plumber Chris Johnson caught a man on CCTV trying to break into his van on Cabin Lane recently, with his neighbours also reporting attempts made on their vehicles.

Mr Johnson has been hit in the past, with a total of £9,000 worth of tools stolen in two separate thefts.

He said: “It is the third time it has happened now and it is frustrating because you think you know everyone in Oswestry, you think you know the bad people but you don’t.

Chancer

“Neighbours said he had been trying their cars too and this time he just seems a bit of a chancer.

“In the past I’ve been hit twice, once for £4,000 and the other for £5,000 and they were almost planned, and it took months for insurance to pay out.

“The people doing it are just scum, it can hit businesses hard. That is why I’ve had CCTV installed and it sends an alert to my phone if someone walks in front of the camera.

Graeme Sutton, who lives in Jasmine Close, spotted what he thought was a bin man near his property in the early hours of the morning recently. However when getting into his Mercedes car, he discovered a host of items had been stolen, and a gadget had been used to get into the vehicle.

He said: “It was in the drive and someone has gone in and taken petty stuff like a small amount of money, sweets, even a half drunk Lucozade bottle.

“No damage has been caused to the car, they must have used some sort of gadget to get in. It just shows you can’t trust anyone.”

Sergeant Deborah Bentley said officers are continuing to patrol the area after a spate of attempted thefts and urged members of the community to remain vigilant.

Enterprise caters for comic costume craze



Stephen Gosling with one of his eye-catching cosplay creations which has helped him forge a new career

THE cult hobby of cosplay, where fans dress up as their favourite fictional character, has led to a new career for Stephen Gosling.

When the former Royal Navy Aircraft engineer left the service he was already interested in the comic book world, and in particular making the fantastical costumes.

He set up Cosplay Forge with his partner, still serving in the Navy, from his home in Telford.

And their engineering expertise has enabled them to fill a gap in the market for providing either custom-made costumes or the materials for cosplayers to create their own.

Mr Gosling said: “We’re taking it upon ourselves to make life easier for everyone in the cosplay community, by bringing as much as we can into one useful location.

“It is an international culture with fans really going to town on their costumes for Comic Con events.”

He said the company uses and sells high quality, cutting edge materials such as Cosplayflex, flexipaint and foams.

“Cosplayers want their costumes and accessories to be light and flexible as they will be wearing them all day. The results can be spectacular,” he said.

Top level talks on A5 improvements will be held

TOP level national talks will be held this week to press ahead plans to dual the A5 through Shropshire.

Experts from Highways England and the regional Midlands Connect group will meet MPs and top councillors and staff for round-the-table talks on improving the major trunk road through the county.

It is the latest good news for the Shropshire Star’s Dual It! campaign which is calling on the Government to make money available to build a safer and better road.

A bid is being prepared by the unitary authority for funding from the Roads Investment Strategy pot to begin the task of dualling the A5 from the north of Shrewsbury to the Welsh border at Chirk from 2020 onwards.

The government is investing billions of pounds in improving Britain’s Strategic Road Network, which includes the A5 and is calling for bids for money for its second programme which begins in just two years time.

The road is part of the Trans-European Highway connecting ports in the south of

England to Holyhead and over to Ireland with the stretch in Shropshire the only single-carriageway section. North Shropshire MP, Owen Paterson, said the high-level meeting at the Shirehall tomorrow (Friday) showed how important the road was nationally.

“This is very early stages but we are making good progress,” he said.

“We do not yet have a route yet but I am working with Councillor Steve Davenport, Shropshire’s portfolio holder for highways and transport to build up a bid for funding.

“News that Chris Grayling retained his position as transport secretary in the cabinet re-shuffle was great for the project as we have had several meetings and he knows the importance of the A5 to the national infrastructure.”

Midlands Connect is a regional body looking at improving communication and infrastructure links to help drive economic growth. The organisation says that the Midlands sits at the heart of the UK’s transport network and an investment will have a remarkable benefit to the whole country.

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The Trustees of our highly successful Academy Trust are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, highly organised and motivated individual for the role of Trustees Clerk. Ideally with experience in a similar role you will have excellent listening, oral and literacy skills, effective interpersonal skills, excellent attention to detail, good ICT skills and high levels of initiative, discretion and sensitivity.

There will be an element of flexibility required for this role providing support at Trustees' meetings.

At least five years' experience of working in a similar role is desirable with an A level English qualification or equivalent. Full Clerk training can be provided.

Further details about this vacancy and an application form are available on the school website. (Please note we do not accept CVs).

There will be an opportunity for those interested in applying, to visit the school on Wednesday 17th January at 9am. If you would like to attend on this day or if you have any other queries, please email Julia Hipkiss, HR Administrator on hipkiss.j@marchesschool.net or ring her on 01691 664417.

Closing date for applications is midnight on Monday 22nd January 2018. Interviews are to be held at 9am on Friday 26th January 2018.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced disclosure from the CRB.

The Marches School

Morda Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2AR
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MOTURING

Peugeot 3008 bags best family car in UK awards

The Peugeot 3008 SUV has scooped the award for the Best Family Car in the UK Car of the Year Awards 2018, the 15th award it has won in the UK since the vehicle's launch.

The multi-award winning 3008 SUV impressed the judges with its sophisticated style, premium feel and practicality.

It was also described as a class-leading car and was highly praised for its "game-changing" dashboard design which forms part of the innovative Peugeot i-Cockpit®. The technology that makes up the Peugeot i-Cockpit® offers a more intuitive and engaging driving experience, with a compact multi-function steering wheel, 12.3" head-up digital instrument display and 8.0" capacitive touchscreen with Mirror Screen® functionality comprising of Android Auto, Apple CarPlay™ and Mirror Link®.

The award means that the Peugeot 3008 SUV is automatically shortlisted for the overall UK Car of the Year award, the winner of which will be announced on February 23.

The UK Car of the Year Award was established in 2014 and is voted for by a panel of 27 leading motoring journalists.

David Peel, managing director at Peugeot UK, said: "Winning the Best Family Car in the UK Car of the Year Awards is a fantastic achievement.



The 3008 is now shortlisted for the overall UK Car of the Year

In a particularly competitive sector, the 3008 SUV proved its suitability for families with its combination of robustness and elegance.

"This award adds to the collection of over 30 international awards that the 3008 SUV has won since it went on sale in 2017. Whilst the 3008 SUV has impressed many award panels, the UK Car of the Year Awards is voted for

by some of the UK's top automotive journalists, making this accolade a massive achievement."

The 3008 SUV can be fully configured and ordered using Peugeot's industry leading 'Order Online' facility at www.peugeot.co.uk along with the rest of the Peugeot SUV range, including the award-winning new Peugeot 5008 SUV.

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14 (14)	KIA CEED 2.1.6 CRDi Infra Red	£11,850
14 (64)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi Acenta, Ink Blue	£12,450
14 (63)	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE M-NAV Flame Red	£8,975
13 (13)	NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi Acenta White	£7,650
13 (13)	CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 VTR+, Silver	£7,250
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi Exclusive, Grey	£11,850
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi Exclusive, Blue	£9,450
12 (62)	KIA CEED 1.1.6CRDi Phantom Black	£6,750
12 (62)	PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDi ACTIVE Silver	£8,950
12 (62)	FORD FOCUS 1.6TDci Zetec, 5 Door, Silver	£5,850
12 (12)	SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TDI SE ECOMOTIVE, Grey	£7,250
12 (12)	NISSAN NOTE 1.5 DCi NTEC, White	£4,750
11 (11)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi Acenta, Force Red	£8,950
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION Silver	£6,850
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi EXPRESSION Pearl Black	£6,850
10 (60)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SRI, Black	£4,850
09 (59)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 5-dr, Silver	£4,750
08 (58)	MINI COOPER 1.6 d (Chilli pack), Black/White roof, high spec	£6,450
08 (58)	VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT, Lovely Condition, Blue	£6,850
08 (58)	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI CLASSIC Silver	£4,250
05 (55)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN, Black	£3,250

Petrol Selection

14 (64)	KIA PICANTO 2.1.0 5DR, Blaze Red	£6,450
14 (14)	MINI ONE COUNTRYMAN (Pepper Pack) Light White	£10,450
13 (63)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SE Blue	£8,950

Automatics

11 (11)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic, 3dr, Blue	£6,850
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62	HYUNDAI i30 TOURER EST. 1.7 CRDi, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY £20 ROAD TAX 35K	£6,995
62	KIA SOUL CRDi, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 32K	£6,695
11	VOLKSWAGEN POLO SEL Tdi 900 1.6 S DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY £30 ROAD TAX 58K	£6,495
15	PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £0 ROAD TAX 27K	£5,995
60	CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE, MET. GREEN, SERV. HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 53K	£5,125
09	FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 S DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K	£5,184
10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY 61K	£5,095
61	FIAT 500 LOUNGE, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 35K	£4,999
62	FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING £30 ROAD TAX 10K	£4,995
10	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI S DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£4,995
12	SKODA FABIA SE 12V, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY, 39K	£4,995
13	FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK, BLACK 34K	£4,895
10	CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDi, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX 52K	£4,695
14	FORD KA STUDIO, BRIGHT RED, FULL SERV. HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX 21K	£4,650
08	FORD FOCUS ZETEC AUTOMATIC, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 34K	£4,495
60	VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 60, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY 64K	£4,495
10	FORD FIESTA EDGE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, SILVER, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 63K	£4,295
10	TOYOTA YARIS TR 1.4 D-4D, 6 SPEED, BRIGHT RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 61K	£4,250
57	MINI HATCH ONE, 6 SPEED, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 52K	£3,895
08	FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K	£3,795
11	FIAT PUNTO ECO MYLIFE, RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 39K	£3,795
11	CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 28K	£3,695
06	MINI COOPER, SILVER/BLACK ROOF, HALF LEATHER SEATS, AIR CON., SERVICE HISTORY 43K	£3,495
56	FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£2,750
56	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i 16v Sxi, BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, CENTRAL LOCKING, ELECTRIC, WINDOWS 60K	£2,595

COMMERCIAL NO VAT

62	FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 270 ECO-TECH, RED, SIDE DOOR 54K	£8,995
59	VW TRANSPORTER T28 TDI SWB, RED 74K	£8,995
08	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT, WHITE 83K	SOLD

COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT

64	VW TRANSPORTER T28 STARTLINE TDI, SILVER, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONE OWNER 38K	£12,995
64	PEUGEOT EXPERT HDi, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, AIR CON., SHELVEY IN REAR 40K	£7,795
14	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 240 L2 LWB, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS DIRECT FROM NHS, ONE OWNER 69K	£7,595
15	CITROEN BERLINGO 625 ENTERPRISE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, WINDOWS, SIDE DOOR, REAR PARKING SENSORS, 19K	£7,295
15	CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 38K	£6,995
60	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 CDTi LWB, BLUE, AIR CON., ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 49K	£6,595
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR, DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY 34K	£6,495
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY 36K	£6,495
11	VW CADDY MAXI C20 LWB TDI 102bhp, BLUE, ELEC. WINDOWS, AIR CON., REMOTE, CENTRAL LOCKING, DIRECT FROM BRITHS GAS, SERVICE HISTORY 70K	£6,695
14	RENAULT KANGOO ML 19 EXTRA DCi 90 WHITE, AIR CON, REAR PARKING SENSORS, SAT. NAV. 37K	£6,650
63	PEUGEOT PARTNER PROFESSIONAL 1.6 HDi, 3 SEATER, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., ONE OWNER 54K	£5,495
62	VW CADDY C20 PLUS Tdi, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 61K	£5,495
14	FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS 59K	£4,495
REG.2012	VAUX. ASTRA VAN CLUB ECOFLEX 1.7 CDTi, WHITE, 6 SPEED, SERV. HIST. 78K	£3,795
62	PEUGEOT BIPPER S 1.3 HDi, BLUE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 60K	£3,695
68	VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDDTi 2000, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK, SERVICE, HISTORY, DIRECT FROM BT 63K	£2,895
07	VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 1.3 CDTi VAN, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 58K	SOLD
06	FORD FIESTA TDCi VAN, WHITE 67K	£1,995

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CARS OF THE WEEK

CITROEN DS3 1.6 E HDI D SPORT PLUS AIRDREAM 110



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POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, 6 SPEED DIESEL,
IPOD CONNECTION, LOW
INSURANCE, IMMACULATE
CONDITION

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TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 ICON



FREE TAX * STILL UNDER
TOYOTA 5 YEAR WARRANTY,
ONLY 15,000 MILES, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £35 per week*.
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**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SV 1.6
TDI CR SE BLUEMOTION
TECH**

£20 TAX PER YEAR,
5 DOOR, DIESEL, ALLOYS,
CD, AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, EXCELLENT
MPG, BLUETOOTH,
IPOD CONN

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**RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI
DYNAMIQUE S ENERGY**
**FREE TAX ** DIESEL,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
ONLY 25,000 MILES,
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+
AIRDREAM**
**FREE TAX ** 6 SPEED
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, UPTO 60 MPG,
PARKING SENSORS,
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+
AIRDREAM**

**FREE TAX ** 6 SPEED
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, UPTO 60 MPG,
PARKING SENSORS,
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C3 1.2 VTR+
PURETECH**
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, IMMACULATE
CONDITION

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**SEAT TOLEDO 1.6 TD
ECOMOTIVE**

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E/WINDOWS,
IPOD CONNECTION,
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CHEVROLET SPARK 1.0 LS

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POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
LOW INSURANCE

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**CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.6
BLUEHDI FLAIR**

**FREE TAX ** 5 DOOR,
ALLOYS, AIR CON,
P/STEERING, E/WINDOWS,
IPOD CONN, BLUETOOTH,
UNDER CITROEN WARRANTY,
P/SENSORS,
EXCELLENT MPG,
LOW INSURANCE

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MG boosts supermini warranty with five year/60,000 miles manufacturer plan

From now, all new MG3 stylish Superminis will come with a whopping five year / 60,000 miles manufacturer warranty.

The two-year extension to the previous offer from MG Motor UK follows the milestone achievement of more than 10,000 MG3 models sold since the car's launch in 2013.

Founded on MG Motor UK's commitment to delivering the best customer service experience and worry-free motoring, the extended warranty is designed to afford MG drivers peace of mind that they will be looked after both on and off the road.

The additional two years allows MG3 drivers to continue to enjoy all the benefits of owning an MG3, without the worry of a repair bill should anything go wrong.

Harvey France, spokesperson at MG, said: "We are always looking for ways to enhance our customer experience and value for money."

"The MG3 has been a strong performer for us over the past couple of years, proving a popular, reliable choice for drivers of all ages."

"The versatility, style and value for money of the MG3 are just a few of the reasons our customers keep on coming back, and we wanted to reward that loyalty with this extended warranty."

Known for its bright colour palette, sporty good looks and ultra-low insurance rating (4E), the MG3 is proving incredibly popular with city dwellers, first-time drivers and driving schools.

Starting from just £8,695, the stylish Supermini offers a considerable benefit over its rivals in both purchase and running costs.

The MG3 Form Sport is available for £99 per month*, while offers are also available across the other variants in the range.

In addition, MG3 models are now available with some new packages and offers for 2018.

*Terms and conditions apply

Night vision and cat paw messages - DS 7 Crossback

The French are well known for their wacky designs – and the new DS 7 Crossback certainly doesn't disappoint.

Not only does it debut a unique look for premium SUVs, but it's packed with cool tech like night vision, suspension that scans the road ahead, swivelling headlights and cat paw massages.

Here's a closer look at the bits that caught our eye on the new £39,335 DS 7.

CAT PAWING SEATS

Ever fancied a massage from a cat? No, us neither – but if that's your particular fetish, the DS 7 can help.

As part of the car's "Sensorial Drive" options, the driver and passenger can opt for a massage called "cat paw" which feels like a feline kneading your back. Yes, we thought it was a bit weird too.

The cabin ambience settings are called "My Cashmere" and "My Titanium" and also adjust the interior lighting intensity and colour, the tone of the music playing out of the speakers and the drive mode.

DS ACTIVE SCAN SUSPENSION

To help it ride smoothly, the DS 7 Crossback has a trick bit of kit hidden in the windscreen.

A camera, which has height sensors and accelerometers built in, analyses the road ahead and prepares the suspension for imperfections.

The result is an extremely comfortable ride that would make the DS 7 an ideal long-distance companion. This sort of technology is normally only seen on the likes of the Mercedes S-Class, so the fact it's here – and actually works – is impressive.

NIGHT VISION

If you're imagining driving along with massive goggles on your head like in that T-Rex scene in Jurassic Park, don't worry, it's better integrated than that.

Selected via a dial on the steering wheel, the digital screen in the instrument binnacle (standard on all but the entry-level) can be switched to a heat-sensing view of the road ahead. Cars, people, animals and other sources of heat appear bright white on the screen, but what's most impressive is that people are highlighted in yellow, often before you've even noticed them yourself. There's also a beep if it looks like you might hit them.



The new DS 7 Crossback has a unique look for premium SUVs and is packed with cool tech

SWIVEL HEADLIGHTS

This is one of those things you just have to trust works. The LEDs twist and turn to light the road ahead and adapt to the environment you're in to illuminate exactly what you need to see.

There are different settings for city driving, country roads and motorways, which activate based on your speed. There's even a different light profile when the windscreen wipers are active to improve visibility in adverse weather.

And, when you turn the car on, the LED modules spin 180 degrees to face the road, which is totally unnecessary, but looks really cool.

BRM CLOCK

DS Automobiles has a partnership with luxury watchmakers BRM Chronographs. There's an analogue clock on top of the dashboard, which swivels to hide away when the car is turned off, swivelling back into place when the engine is started.

Useful for security, because if a shady observer spots a BRM clock sitting proud on the dashboard they might just be tempted to break in.



With Night Vision people are highlighted in yellow, often before you've even noticed them yourself

Full range pricing for new LEAF

Nissan has announced full range pricing for the next generation of the world's best-selling electric vehicle.

With first customer deliveries of the new LEAF starting in February, entry-grade Visia models are available from just £21,990 (including £4,500 Government Grant), rising to £33,655 (also including Govt. Grant) for range-topping fully equipped Tekna grade versions.

The OTR range pricing below includes the £4,500 Government Grant which is offered to the lowest-emissions vehicles.

Visia – From £21,990

Acenta – From £24,290

N-Connecta – From £25,990

Zero (Special Version) – From £26,490

Tekna – From £27,490

The all-new Nissan LEAF offers a significant update over the previous model with dynamic new styling, advanced technologies – including ProPILOT – and a higher capacity battery.

On top of these improvements there's a 50 per cent increase in range to 235miles (NEDC) and a 38 per cent increase in power to 150PS compared to the outgoing model, yet the OTR price is up to £1,500 lower than previous generation (see table

at end of release for pricing comparisons).

Carl Bayliss, EV category manager Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd., said: "With the new Nissan LEAF, all-electric motoring has never been more viable or affordable for almost any motorist. EV running costs are around 85 per cent less than petrol or diesel cars and maintenance is almost 75 per cent cheaper. There's £0 VED, free London Congestion Charge and even free parking in some cities, not to mention convenient home charging. It's not surprising unprecedented numbers of drivers are making the switch and going electric."

Customers looking to be one of the first owners of the all-new Nissan LEAF, can now benefit from a competitive contract purchase on the exclusive 2.ZERO special version.

With a £5,138 customer deposit, combined with £1,000 dealer deposit contribution, monthly payments are just £339 on a three year/10,000 annual mileage PCP with 4.49 per cent APR.

Limited to just 1,500 models, the new LEAF 2.ZERO special version is positioned between N-Connecta and the range-topping Tekna grade, and is available in



First customer deliveries of the new LEAF start next month

two colours: Spring Cloud and Pearl Black.

A generous specification includes:

ProPILOT
ePedal
Stylish 17" alloy wheels
Front and rear heated black suede-effect bio-fabric seats
Heated steering wheel
NissanConnect EV 7" touchscreen

infotainment with six speaker sound system

Intelligent Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection and Intelligent Driver alertness

The additional features installed on 2.ZERO versions represent a £535 saving against N-Connecta models if they were specified separately.

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wigan	26	17	6	3	50	12	57
Shrewsbury	26	16	6	4	34	18	54
Blackburn	26	16	6	4	24	52	52
Scunthorpe	27	14	8	5	38	23	48
Bradford	27	15	3	9	43	36	48
Charlton	27	12	7	8	34	32	43
Preston	27	13	3	11	34	31	43
Rotherham	27	12	5	11	36	33	43
Peterborough	27	11	7	9	43	37	40
Oxford	28	10	4	13	43	38	40
Fleetwood	27	10	6	11	38	41	36
Doncaster	27	9	8	15	45	38	35
Plymouth	28	8	11	10	35	35	35
Gillingham	27	8	10	9	29	30	34
Walsall	26	8	9	9	33	35	33
Blackpool	27	10	3	14	36	33	33
Bristol Rovers	27	10	3	14	36	33	33
Southend	28	8	7	13	32	47	31
MK Dons	27	7	11	21	28	30	28
Oldham	28	7	8	13	40	50	29
Northampton	28	8	5	15	29	48	29
ACF Wimbledon	26	7	12	22	31	28	28
Rochdale	26	4	10	16	26	37	22
Bury	27	4	5	18	19	42	17

Vanarama National

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Macclesfield	29	16	7	6	38	26	55
Aldershot	29	14	9	6	48	31	50
Sutton	29	14	7	8	42	34	50
Wrexham	28	13	9	6	31	22	48
Tranmere	29	13	8	8	43	26	47
Boreham Wood	29	12	11	6	40	29	47
Dover Athletic	29	11	12	5	38	25	45
Dagenham & R	29	12	9	8	46	35	45
Bromley	29	12	8	9	46	37	44
Ebbsfleet	29	10	12	7	41	33	42
FC Hyde	28	11	9	8	45	36	42
Maidenhead	29	11	9	9	37	40	42
Maidstone	28	11	8	9	35	40	42
Eastleigh	29	13	8	13	42	37	42
Woking	28	10	13	15	38	44	41
FC Halifax	29	10	10	13	38	44	41
Hartlepool	28	8	11	11	31	38	33
Gateshead	26	7	11	18	32	28	32
Leyton Orient	29	8	13	15	42	32	32
Grays	29	11	10	17	40	31	31
St Albans	28	6	11	22	25	44	26
Solihull Moors	29	6	17	26	25	44	26
Gusley	28	4	10	16	25	52	22
Torquay	29	4	8	17	24	47	20

Vanarama National N

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Salford City	28	14	4	4	47	25	48
Harrage	28	13	5	4	43	22	48
Brackley	25	13	9	3	45	28	48
Spenmory	24	13	5	6	49	38	44
Blyth Spartans	24	14	10	0	56	42	44
Grimsby	25	10	10	5	42	29	40
Kidderminster	25	10	10	5	42	29	40
Bradford PA	26	11	6	9	43	33	39
Chorley	25	10	8	7	28	22	38
Stockport	25	10	7	8	48	36	37
Tamworth	25	10	7	8	48	36	37
Boston	25	9	11	11	38	43	32
FC United of Man29	25	5	11	12	42	38	32
Curzon Ashton	25	7	9	10	30	39	30
Grays	26	7	11	11	34	50	29
Southport	26	7	8	11	34	50	29
Leamington	25	7	11	13	39	28	28
Alfreton Town	25	8	14	13	43	27	27
FC Torquay United	28	12	12	14	29	37	26
Darlington	26	7	10	13	29	45	25
Gainsborough	24	7	4	13	29	45	25
North Ferriby	25	1	4	20	10	63	7

Evo-Stik League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Altrincham	27	18	5	4	62	21	59
Grantham	27	15	5	7	51	31	50
Widlington	25	15	6	5	49	27	49
Shaw Lane	23	14	4	5	45	24	44
Workington	27	13	7	7	49	33	46
Ashton United	25	13	5	4	48	33	43
Heddon	23	13	6	5	48	33	43
Farsley Celtic	28	12	8	8	50	46	44
Witton Albion	29	11	8	10	49	43	41
Mickleover	31	11	7	13	43	39	40
Southbridge	29	11	6	10	43	38	39
Buxton	29	11	6	10	43	38	39
Lancaster	26	10	8	8	46	38	38
Coventry T	30	11	5	14	50	38	38
Barwell	28	9	10	10	36	37	36
Whitby	29	9	14	16	31	30	36
Matlock Town	29	9	14	16	38	32	36
Stafford	26	9	12	19	40	36	32
Rushall	28	9	14	19	37	32	32
Whitby Town	29	9	14	16	31	30	36
Marine	27	7	6	14	34	47	27
Halesowen T	29	7	6	16	30	52	27
Stalybridge	24	7	14	32	46	32	26
Sutton Coldfield	30	5	20	30	79	20	20

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Basford	26	21	5	0	62	21	68
Bedworth	26	14	5	7	42	34	47
Frickley	24	14	4	6	59	36	45
Nedderham	23	13	5	6	59	36	45
Alverchurch	22	13	4	4	41	28	43
Stamford	26	11	8	7	42	26	41
Leek Town	25	12	4	9	48	30	40
Chasetown	25	12	4	9	46	39	40
Corby Town	25	12	3	11	46	43	39
Stockbridge	25	9	7	5	52	37	36
Belper Town	26	9	12	13	50	32	32
Loughborough	26	9	12	13	45	31	32
Northampton	26	9	12	13	45	31	32
Lincoln United	24	9	12	13	45	31	32
Newcastle T	25	7	3	14	34	46	26
Mk Drayton T	26	7	5	14	26	48	26
Carlton Town	21	7	4	10	33	35	25
Kidsgrove	24	6	11	17	24	51	23
Gresley	24	6	11	17	24	51	23
Sheffield	24	5	11	18	40	51	23
Peterborough	26	5	15	17	37	50	23
Romulus	27	5	15	17	35	69	22

Hallmark Security Lge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Silsden AFC	24	21	0	3	69	20	61
Litherton	22	16	3	3	62	21	51
Prestwich H	22	15	2	5	63	28	47
Whitchurch A	20	14	2	4	46	15	44
Nedderham T	23	14	3	6	51	31	43
ACF Blackpool	23	12	8	4	49	42	41
Cannell Laird	25	12	4	9	52	41	40
Sandbach	23	12	2	9	45	38	34
Holker Old	24	10	1	10	36	35	34
Carlisle City	22	9	2	13	38	32	27
Stockport T	24	9	10	4	45	32	32
FC Oswestry	26	10	15	4	53	34	31
Atherton L	22	9	11	2	36	27	29
Albion United	22	9	11	2	36	27	29
New Mills	21	8	10	4	40	27	27
Chester Town	19	7	9	2	28	26	24
Barcup Borough	17	6	2	9	22	20	20
Chaderton	23	5	13	18	37	57	17
Cruckley	23	5	13	18	37	57	17
St Helens	25	5	17	15	36	58	18
Daisy Hill	23	4	15	20	30	60	16
Nelson	22	3	4	15	22	53	12

Midland Football League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bromsgrove	21	15	3	3	50	24	48
Sporting Khalsa	24	13	8	3	51	26	47
Colehill Town	21	14	4	3	50	27	46
Cow Spire	21	14	4	3	48	22	46
Worcester City	20	12	5	3	52	22	41
Highgate	21	12	4	5	36	26	40
Rugby Town	23	11	5	7	44	30	38
Heanor Town	23	11	4	7	37	37	37
Shepshed	21	10	4	4	56	36	34
Westfields	18	10	3	5	47	29	33
ACF Wulfs	25	10	2	13	34	54	32
Coventry	21	9	4	4	46	35	31
Long Eaton	23	9	1	10	42	34	29
Quorn	25	7	4	14	40	62	25
Lye Town	23	6	6	11	22	33	24
Loughboro Univ	24	7	3	14	34	47	24
Bolton	22	7	3	12	32	52	24
Stourport Swifts	19	7	2	10	35	48	23
Haughmond	23	4	5	14	26	45	17
St Norman Ath	23	4	4	15	27	53	16
Rochester	20	4	13	14	34	54	13
Shawbury Utd	21	3	15	19	24	42	12

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Walsall Wd	22	18	1	3	84	18	55
Leicester Rd	24	16	4	3	70	30	52
Atherstone T	20	16	4	3	58	24	48
Ilkeston Town	23	15	3	5	53	20	48
Studley	20	14	4	6	44	36	46
RC Warwick	20	14	4	6	44	36	46
Litton	22	14	1	7	50	25	42
Hinckley AFC	21	13	3	7	57	36	42
Heather SJ	23	12	8	3	51	31	39
Lichfield City	24	11	6	7	51	48	39
Coventry	21	10	2	9	37	44	32
Paigley Rangers	21	10	3	13	31	41	31
Chelmsley	25	8	4	13	32	55	28
Uttoxeter	26	7	4	15	44	73	25
Heath Hayes	23	5	10	10	60	62	23
FC Halifax	23	5	10	10	60	62	23
Nuneaton	23	5	10	10	60	62	23
Northwich	23	5	10	10	60	62	23
Bolehall Swifts	24	6	12	16	24	62	20
Brocton	20	5	4	11	31	40	19
Caubury Ath	22	4	7	11	30	44	19
Stafford Town	23	2	10	16	27	58	13
Coventry Alvis	24	3	1	20	11	85	10

TNS Ladies march on with high fives win

THE New Saints Ladies kept up the pressure in the chase for honours in the FA Women's Premier League Midlands division one with a 5-0 hammering of lowly Leicester City Ladies.

Victory at the Park Hall Stadium kept the second placed Saints one point behind leaders Loughborough Foxes Ladies and with a game in hand.

The team were in confident mood after booking their place in the fourth round of the SSE Women's FA Cup for the first time with an historic 2-1 win at Newcastle United

They went into the game on the back of a seven match winning run in all competitions, while rock bottom Leicester ended a run of 15 straight defeats by earning their first point of the season with a 1-1 draw at Rotherham United Ladies the previous Sunday.

TNS eventually took the lead on 16 minutes when, from Charlotte Canlett's free kick on the right, City failed to clear their lines and the ball eventually dropped to Emily Ridge, who sent her left foot shot from 18 yards looping into City keeper Amie Cattell's right hand corner.

It was 2-0 in the 20th minute when Laura Morris ran down the right before crossing to Ridge, whose right foot shot from six yards hit the bar and looped up before dropping to Kim Bebbington who headed home.

A third goal arrived seven minutes later when Holly Turbill's great diagonal cross-field ball from middle to right found Morris who ran down the right and cut into the box before rounding Cattell and slotting her right foot shot into the keeper's right hand corner for a superb individual goal.

The title chasers then made it 4-0 in first half stoppage time when sub Sarah Jackson broke down the left before pulling the ball back low to Morris, who squared infield to Canlett who took a touch before sending a terrific right foot shot from 20 yards into Cattell's top right hand corner.

Both sides made a change to start the second half with Sara Bengtsson coming on for Morris and City bringing on Shania Sheridan for Mathilda Fidler.

What proved to be the final goal of the afternoon came in the 76th minute when Chloe Wilkinson's corner from the left to the near post found Louisa Anderson who sent her header from 16 yards into Cattell's right hand corner.

Title rivals Loughborough Foxes Women won 6-0 at home to Long Eaton United Ladies to stay top of the table by one point.

The Saints look to maintain their title push on Sunday away to Burton Albion Ladies with a 2pm kick off. The match is scheduled to be played at Stafford Rangers FC where Burton Albion Ladies play their home games.

Town's super run is ended



GARY Meredith (right) on the attack for FC Oswestry Town whose fine run of form in the Hall-mark North West Counties League division one faltered with a 3-0 defeat at Eccleshall

Shooters setting their new year targets high

SHOOTERS in the Montgomeryshire and District Airgun League set their sights high when they returned to action in the New Year to contest the second half of the season.

The league table remains reasonably stable, as do the team average scores, so the second half of the term can see attrition rates rising as the pressure builds with teams and individual shooters out to maintain their form.

Churchstoke made their first visit to Crew Green A's new home in Llandrinio, where they managed to keep up their run of wins.

The home side succumbed 190.7 to their visitors' 201.0 in a very jovial, good natured match in a welcoming venue, with Churchstoke's Paul Gwilliam leading the scoring with his 35.2.

Having a six-shooter squad seems to be the way forward for Llanfair Caereinion, with Nick Lloyd's team securing their third win of the season when they shot at home against opponents Forden.

Their final tally was 192.6 to Forden's 190.2, and a special mention must go to Dai Tom Williams who scored a perfect 35.7. To do so takes huge reserves of skill, tenacity and a cool head – hearty congratulations are due.

There were two 35s scored when Guilsfield B entertained rivals Castle Caereinion, one for P Edwards (GB, 35.1) and another for R Williams (CC, 35.4) in Castle's 201.1-193.8 win over their hosts.

Having not one but two 35's scored in one match always reflects well on the teams and showcases the quality of shooters the league possesses.

Guilsfield A had their work cut out to beat Crew Green B, with

half a point separating the sides at the close of the match in which the pressure was on Guilsfield A's Roger Knight to score at least five points with his last shot to cinch victory.

Ultimately, he left the paint on the target untroubled, scoring a clean 5.1 to seal it for his team.

It was a high-scoring match (202.4 to 201.9) in which the young blades showed their more senior shooters how it is done, with Az Knight scoring 35.3 for Guilsfield A and the Hilditch brothers Adam and Joe opening and closing the match with 35.4's.

If two 35's per match is a good result, then three must be indicative of a humdinger of a contest.

When Arddleen visited Newtown, it was again the youngsters who showed the old(er) hands the way, with Jack Francis making 35.3 for Arddleen and Tabitha Corbett recording a score of 35.2 for the hosts.

Arddleen's track record saw them overcome their hosts by the comfortable margin of 192.5 points to 203.8.

One might have expected the festive season to have weighed heavy on the league's shooters but the evidence shown in the scoring indicates otherwise.

Possibles were scored in every single match with three matches containing two or three such scores – with the New Year seeing shooters laying down their markers and making further statements of their intent.

At this point, one would have to say that all the signs point to this year being yet another in league's run of vintage seasons.

Every team is shooting well, the tables are tight and there is a long way to go before the final league matches are shot on the April 19.

COBRA Bowled out as Pembroke strike

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA'S hopes of securing a place in the last eight of the Swalec Bowl for the first time were dashed after being downed 34-3 at home to high flying Pembroke.

The Meifod side, with just one defeat in the Welsh League division two (north) this season, had gone into the fifth round tie with a realistic chance of progressing.

But they found their visitors - the current unbeaten pacesetters in the division three (west) - in clinical form as they ran in five tries to emerge convincing winners.

Pembroke's strength was their pack, and the size of their back row runners, while their fly half orchestrated many of their moves to keep the pressure on the Llanfair side.

And when the West Wales men did get a chance, they showed their cutting edge to cross the line in ruthless fashion to take the game away from their hosts.

COBRA battled hard, and had a couple of chances in the second period - with one try attempt being held up over the line while another was knocked on when poised to score.

But the damage was done in the first half, with Pembroke 22-3 up at the interval, with their third touchdown coming right on the stroke of the break.

They set the scene with a well worked opening try, which was converted, but COBRA responded with penalty from Will Worthington.

More incisive play saw the visitors open up a 17-3 lead after 25 minutes with a further penalty and converted try after the ball had been passed out wide from a line out.

In a frantic finish to the half, Pembroke crucially went over for another score following several waves of attacking play.

COBRA took the game to their visitors after the break, but could find no way through some solid defending despite their efforts,

And two more tries sealed a fully deserved 34-7 victory to earn Pembroke their ticket for the quarter finals of the competition next month.

COBRA will now bid to bounce back on Saturday when they return to their promotion quest in the Welsh League division two (north) at home to close challengers Wrexham who also bowed out of the Swalec Bowl with a 21-12 loss to Caerphilly side Deri.

WELSHPOOL boosted their hopes of escaping the basement places in the Welsh League division two (north) with a timely 23-17 success at



Scrum half Lloyd Mayor passes out to fly-half Will Worthington in COBRA's Swalec Bowl defeat against Pembroke, watched by full-back Richard Jones (centre)

Llangollen.

Despite the victory, Pool remain in the bottom two, but are now just three points adrift of Llangollen to give themselves real chance of climbing out to trouble.

The Maesydre side will look to build on that result on Saturday when they host Rhyl, and can take plenty of positives from last weekend's display.

They started well with No8 Ryan Goodwin crashing over from a line out, with Dan Earl adding the conversion.

Llangollen then hit back with a couple of penalties before taking the lead with an unconverted try in the corner.

Earl landed a couple of penalties at the other end, but two more kicks put the hosts 17-13 up before Pool upped the ante.

With their forwards starting to exert control in the second period, their efforts were rewarded with Goodwin going over for his second touchdown, converted by Earl who sealed the win with a penalty.

Eagles slipping off pace after defeat on road

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

Jack Charmley to the fore.

The visitors continued to keep up the pressure on their opponents who were conceding penalties in their attempts to relieve the danger and clear their lines.

Strong running from Owen-Youens kept Oswestry on the front foot, while more infringements saw the home side reduced to 14 men for 10 minutes following a sin-binning.

The visitors looked to make the most of their numerical advantage and eventually got the breakthrough when Thomas Henry Jones ran in a great try under the posts, with Luca Owen-Youens landing the conversion for a 7-0 lead.

However, this score appeared to spur on Orrell who, after running the ball from a penalty in the Oswestry half, crossed for a fine try under

the posts which was converted to level matters.

The home side were then ahead 14-7 when they stole the ball from a tackle and spotted a gap to run in a second try in the corner, with the conversion added.

Orrell's yellow carded player returned to the game to take the hosts back up to full strength and, spurred on by their army of supporters, they took the game to the Eagles.

The visitors put in some big tackles, and a penalty saw Orrell extend their lead to 17-7 as they kept their rivals pegged back in their own half with some big kicking.

Oswestry battled to get back upheld, but Orrell added to their lead with a third try when their scrum half saw raced through to touch down for a 24-7 advantage at the interval.

The home side came out for the second period full of confidence, and their quick passing resulted in an unconverted fourth try to extend

the margin.

Oswestry's hopes faded further when Thomas Henry Jones landed a yellow card and, with the extra player, Orrell took full advantage immediately to cross for a fifth try to lead 34-7.

The home side were now rampant and ran straight back at Oswestry from the restart and scored another touchdown in the corner which was converted, and the Manchester hosts ran in another try from a scrum under the posts with the extras added for a 48-7 lead with nearly 20 minutes remaining.

Man of the match was given to Jonathan Hughes who was always kept busy with good tackles and spirited runs throughout the match.

OSWESTRY II were edged out 24-22 at home to their Crewe and Nantwich counterparts to remain in sixth spot in the North West League dives;in four (south). They are away to Northwich on Saturday.

Welshpool pay Price with narrow away defeat

HIGH-FLYING Welshpool Town suffered a narrow 1-0 loss at Radnor Valley to see their lead at the top of the Spar Mid Wales League division one trimmed to just three points.

In a tightly contested game of few clear cut chances, a 70th minute penalty from Joey Price proved enough to put paid to Pool.

In-form Llanrhaeadr, with four games in hand on the pace-setters, cashed in with a 1-0 victory at Llandrindod Wells as they closed the gap in second spot.

It was a tight game throughout, but the crucial breakthrough came 10 minutes from time when Tom Evans turned on the edge of the box before crashing a terrific volley into the net.

Llanidloes Town, one place below in third, missed a chance of making up ground after being held 1-1 at home to Aberaeron who snatched a late leveller through Ianto Evans.

The Daffs had the better of the game, with Matthew Savage heading them into the lead after the break, but for most part they were met by solid defending. They are seven points adrift of leaders Welshpool, but do have two games in hand.

In division two, it was high fives for Llansantffraid Village who maintained their promotion pursuit with a 5-0 romp at Presteigne.

Unbeaten

Still unbeaten in the league this season, the second placed villagers remain five points behind leaders Builth Wells with a game in hand after the Spa side marched on at the top with a 2-0 success away to third bottom Montgomery.

Mid-table Abermule notched a 3-0 verdict at Talgarth Town while Dolgellau were 2-0 winners at home to Penybont United.

Back from their festive break, Aberystwyth University consolidated third spot as they made a winning start to the year by accounting for Newbridge 3-1 courtesy of a second half fight-back.

The students had trailed at the break, before turning the tables on their visitors with three goals in the second period.

Dion Roberts levelled on 70 minutes when poking the ball in from close range after Tom Spicer had headed towards goal from a corner.

Matthew Roberts then put the students ahead when latching onto a through ball before steering his shot into the net from a tight angle.

Spicer then sealed the win when firing home from 10 yards to put the university in good spirits ahead of Saturday's big home clash with second placed Llansantffraid Village.

It's seven up for Waterloo

WATERLOO Rovers stayed in touching distance of the leaders in the Montgomeryshire League division one with a 7-2 success away to Llanymynech.

Tom Ellis led the way with a hat-trick, with Chris Proctor, Andrew Gwilt, Will Pritchard and Ollie Davies also finding the net.

Results

Division one: Caersws Reserves 1 Llanyfilin Town 3, Llanyfrynch 2 Waterloo Rovers 7, Meifod v Guilsfield Res (postponed).

Division two: Churchstoke Reserves 2 Llangedwyn 6, Kerry Reserves 1 Trefonen 1, Llanfechain 5 Carno Reserves 2, Welshpool Res 5 Llanyfilin Res 1.

Super New Saints surge 12 points clear

A LATE goal from Blaine Hudson lifted The New Saints an imposing 12 points clear at the top of the JD Welsh Premier after putting paid to one of their chief rivals Bangor City at Park Hall, writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER**.

There was little between the sides - lying first and third in the table - before some late drama saw the defending champions secure what could prove a crucial 2-1 success.

Aeron Edwards broke the deadlock on 79 minutes and, despite a quick reply through Luke Wall, TNS bagged a close range winner four minutes from time courtesy of defender Hudson - who just moments before had seen an effort disallowed.

It was a dramatic finish to an entertaining affair, with victory putting the Saints in firm control of the title race as they target a seventh successive league crown this term.

With second placed Connah's Quay Nomads suffering a surprise 4-2 defeat at Aberystwyth Town, the Saints already appear to have one hand on the trophy with just 10 games remaining.

"We're in a nice position going into the split as we're 12 points clear of Connah's Quay, and 14 ahead of Bangor, but the league is not won yet, and we cannot take anything for granted," said manager Scott Ruscoe.

"We were delighted to get the win in the end against Bangor. If looked like 1-1, Bangor gave it a good go, but Blaine is the sort of defender you want in the box for knock downs, and he has scored a few goals for us this season."

After losing 5-2 away to Bangor on the opening night of the season, the league leaders had a score to settle in the return fixture played at a terrific pace throughout.

Bangor had their chances, with keeper Paul Harrison called into action, while at the other end Greg Draper and Ryan Brobbel also had openings.

The Citizens were close to a breakthrough when the impressive Luke Wall set up former Premier League star Gary Taylor-Fletcher whose volley was met by a terrific save from captain Harrison.

The frantic pace continued, with Draper - chasing

his 100th goal in TNS colours - being denied by City keeper Matthew Hall who pushed his effort over.

After the break, Harrison pulled off a fine save from George Harry, while at the other end Draper's scissors kick flew straight at Hall.

TNS looked to have broken the deadlock on 70 minutes when Hudson rose to head in Brobbel's delivery, but his effort was ruled out for a foul.

But Edwards was not to be denied for the league leaders 11 minutes from time with a well taken left foot finish after being played in by substitute Alex Darlington.

The Citizens were soon level when Wall converted a rebound after Harrison had pulled off a superb save from Gary Taylor-Fletcher.

However, TNS showed their mettle as Hudson made up for his earlier frustration when netting from a tight angle after the ball had been knocked down from a corner.

■ Meanwhile, Newtown cruised to a 3-0 home win over strugglers Prestatyn Town with goals from Jamie Reed, Alex Fletcher and Joe Kenton.

Guils fly high after Airbus are grounded

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

GUILDSFIELD turned up the heat in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after launching a stirring fightback to overcome close rivals Airbus UK 3-1 Broughton at Clos Mytton.

After trailing to a 26th minute strike from Alonso Fosu-Mensah, the Guils turned it around with two goals right on half time through Chris Cathrall and Robbie James before Callum Bromley netted a third on the hour.

Victory lifted the villagers above Airbus and up to fourth spot, just two points off second place, and six adrift of leaders Caernarfon Town.

It was a terrific effort from Nathan Leonard's side who were stronger than the Wingmakers in every department, and could have scored more with better finishing.

Airbus had their chances in the first half, and took the lead when a long ball found Fosu-Mensah in the clear to steer the opener past keeper Andrew Wycherley.

Damase Kiwanda headed over from Leo Riley's cross and Luke Busumbru twice found Fosu-Mensah in good positions, but the striker sent his first effort agonisingly past the post while firing well wide from the second.

However, the game was turned on its head in the final minute of the first half as Guilsfield scored twice to get their noses in front.

Asa Hamilton had just gone close before the villagers broke down the byline and Chris Cathrall had a simple chance to level.

Under-pressure

A defensive mix-up then presented a chance to Robbie James who bravely got his foot in to send the Guils into the break with their tails up.

James was narrowly wide from a Hamilton cross just after the interval as under-pressure Airbus conceded several free kicks in dangerous positions.

The hosts also had strong penalty claims turned down after the challenge was adjudged to have been outside the box.

But the game was effectively settled just past the hour mark when Bromley scored via the inside of the far post.

Airbus rarely threatened after that as the hosts - who included Mark Davies for a rare outing at left back - dominated to consolidate their position in the upper reaches of the table.

CAERSWS, meanwhile, remain deep in basement trouble in the Cymru Alliance after their 2-0 loss at Porthmadog who took the spoils with first half strikes from Gareth Evans Jones (28) and Joe Chaplin (33).

After Luke Sherbon failed to capitalise on two good opportunities early on, the Bluebirds were made to pau as Jones headed Port in front and Chaplin added a second from close range.

Both keepers made good saves, Callum Hawthorne for Caersws and Richard Harvey for the home side, while Lance Jones had an effort cleared off the line late on.

■ Guilsfield's Central Wales Cup fourth round clash at Llanidloes Town takes place at Victoria Avenue on Wednesday, January 24 (7.30).

Olympians warm to the task



Mia Wyatt and brother Massimo who were the leading Oswestry runners in the U13 races and (right) U17 boys Matthew Collins with Tom Wilde whose seventh place secured automatic county selection

A 15-strong contingent from Oswestry Olympians braved wintry conditions to compete in the Shropshire Junior Cross Country Championships at Attingham Park.

Once again the top performer was Liam Rawlings who added the under-15 boys championship to the league title he had previously claimed after winning every one of the autumn league meetings.

In the team event, it was the under-15 girls who shone with Bethan Jones, Mia Tate, Rhianon Tansley, Anna Rothera and Katie Othen taking the silver medal just behind a powerful Bridgnorth squad. Through their performances both Liam Rawlings and Tom Wilde (under-17 boys) have both secured automatic selection for the Shropshire Junior cross country team.

The Olympians; team spirit shone throughout the meeting with those waiting to run or having completed their races sup-

porting their team mates in a squad which included three pairs of siblings.

First to take on the picturesque course, adapted to avoid the rising flood waters of the river Severn, were the under-13 girls. Mia Wyatt was the first Oswestrian to complete the 2km course in a little less than 10 minutes soon to be followed home by Lucy Othen.

The under-13 boys faced a slightly longer 3km run with Massimo Wyatt matching the feat of his sister Mia being the first Olympian home in an impressive 10th place.

Momentum

Ben Rothera and Sam Newton, who were together throughout the race, finished within four seconds of each other just ahead of Tom Hotchkiss.

The under-15 and under-17 girls raced at the same time on slightly different routes. Bethan Jones and Mia Tate impressed in eighth and ninth places in the

under-15 event, closely followed by Rhianon Tansley in 12th.

The momentum was maintained with Anna Rothera (sister of Ben) and Katie Othen (sister of Lucy) successfully completing the 3km course to secure an impressive second place for the Oswestry team. Kate Pugh, the sole Olympian in the under-17 team, beat the 20 minute mark in 14th place for the 4km run.

Like the girls, the under-15 and under-17 boys also started together. Despite not being fully fit, Liam Rawlings' class shone through as he led from start to finish, completing the 4km course in one second over 14 minutes.

At 5km, the under-17 boys race was the longest junior race. Tom Wilde, who has struggled recently through injury, secured automatic selection for the county with seventh place in just over 19 minutes. Matthew Collins completed a fine day for the club with a creditable 14th place in a little over 20 minutes.

Llanfair bow of Trophy after thriller in extra-time

LLANFAIR United narrowly missed out on a quarter-final place in the FAW Trophy after suffering a thrilling 5-4 extra-time defeat in their fifth round tie at Conwy Borough.

Windswept conditions at the Morfa made defending tough, with Llanfair leading in the first half courtesy of two long range efforts.

A fluctuating encounter saw Llanfair fall behind to a goal from Jamie Roberts in the opening minute, before Andrew Hughes levelled on the half hour with a wind assisted effort from half way when lobbing the stranded keeper.

The Spar League visitors were then ahead in freak circumstances two minutes before the break when a clearance from Matt Mumford was carried 70 yards over the home keeper.

Conwy were back on terms two minutes after the interval when Matty Hughes headed in a free kick, and then took the lead as Iolo Hughes tabbed in the rebound after United had cleared a corner off the line.

The drama continued as Llanfair took the tie into extra time through a Gethin Stephens header from a corner with four minutes remaining.

The visitors then took the lead late in the first half of extra time courtesy of a second goal from Andrew Hughes who headed in a corner.

But Conwy stormed back in the second period to reach the last eight with Jack Hoult levelling before Matty Hughes nodded the winner for his second of the game, with both goals from set plays.

Holders **CHIRK AAA** crashed out with a penalty shoot-out defeat at Llanrug United after having two players controversially sent off in normal time.

Despite two men down, Chirk battled hard in extra time, but fell behind when Lion Jones tapped in from close range at the far post.

However, the Colliers refused to surrender and deservedly equalised in the 118th minute when Middlehurst scored his second goal of the game.

However, the visitors fell just short in the penalty shootout, leaving

Llanrug to progress to the quarter-finals.

Berriew bow out but put in spirited show

BERRIEW'S interest in the Central Wales Cup ended with a 4-1 third round exit away to Spar Mid Wales League rivals Knighton Town.

Connor Bird and Gareth Mansell both scored twice for Knighton before Marc Jones netted a consolation for the young Rhiewsidars who ran out of steam in the second half.

Two second half goals from Will Thomas helped Welshpool through to the fourth round of with a 3-2 victory over Penrhyneoch at Maesydre. Ian Probert also found the net for the Lilywhites who visit Caersws in the next round.

Alwyn Jones fired a hat-trick as Dyffryn Banw progressed with a 5-4 extra time win over Brecon Northcote. Aled Jones also on target with Tom Foulkes bagging the extra-time winner. Banw now make the short trip to Waterloo Rovers in the next round.

Carno went out 2-1 at home to Bow Street, Andy Evans getting their reply, while Tywyn Bryncrug stormed into the fourth round with a 6-0 battering of Hay St Mary's.

Updated fourth round draw: Bow Street v Newcastle Emlyn, Knighton Town v Tywyn Bryncrug, Caersws v Welshpool Town, Waterloo Rovers v Dyffryn Banw, Llanfair United v Kerry, Llanidloes Town v Guilsfield (24 Jan), Radnor Valley v Llandrindod Wells, Newquay/Churchstoke v Builth Wells. Ties to be played on Saturday, January 27 (1.30).

Sport

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Olympians are in
the picture – P39

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COBRA are Bowled
out at home – P38



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Morris is on the move to Premier club

AFTER losing defender Alun Morris, FC Oswestry Town are making moves to strengthen their squad for the second half of the season.

Morris, a key figure in the heart of the defence, has this week joined Welsh Premier club Cefn Druids, and his departure follows Jacob Fairleigh's return to TNS after his loan spell.

"Alun's a great character and has done really well for us, so he will be missed," said joint manager Ryan Butcher.

"It's a fantastic chance for him to join a Welsh Premier club, and we wish him all the best.

"But it means we have now lost two key players in the last few weeks with Jacob going back to TNS, so we're looking to bring in a couple of new signings in the next few weeks."

Town's fine run of form, meanwhile, came to a halt with a 3-0 loss at Eccleshall in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

A first half strike from Serkari Ahmadi (35) gave the Staffordshire hosts the lead, before late goals from Thomas Wakefield (77) and Louis Downs (85) wrapped up the home win.

"It was a bit disappointing as we have set ourselves high standards, but never really got into the game," added Butcher.

"We could have been two or three up before they scored, and the defeat was more our own doing."

Town will be out to bounce back this week in two testing home encounters - against Ellesmere Rangers in the quarter-final of the TJ Vickers Shropshire Cup on Tuesday night, and against second placed Prestwich Heys in the league on Saturday.

Without a game last weekend, **ST MARTINS** look to maintain their revival in the West Midlands League division one when they head to Worcester Raiders.

Buoyed by their 1-0 success over high flying Newport Town, the Saints look to make it five straight league wins. They are now eighth, and are two places and five points below this weekend's hosts.

Ladies hockey aim for new year cheer

OSWESTRY Ladies remain third bottom in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two after slipping to a 4-0 loss at high flying Wilmslow Ladies.

After suffering their third straight defeat, and 10th in all this term, they will look to bounce back at home to Timperley Ladies on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Welshpool Ladies are still looking for their first win in the North Wales League division one after their 5-1 home loss to high flying Arduwy Ladies.

Despite propping up the table after eight games, Pool could take heart from their display and teamwork against tough opponents.

TNS CHASING CUP WIN NO4

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

HOLDERS The New Saints bid to maintain their dominance of the Nathaniel MG Cup by lifting the trophy for a fourth consecutive season in Saturday's final with Cardiff Met University at Aberystwyth (5.15).

In all, the Saints have won what is the Welsh Premier's league cup on eight occasions, and boss Scott Ruscoe - who took the reins from Craig Harrison early summer - will be eyeing his first piece of silverware as manager.

The league leaders, who are chasing honours on four fronts this season, start as firm favourites against the students whose appearance in the final will be the biggest day in their short history.

Recent form backs TNS who have won 10 of their last 11 outings, while the Met had just one win in eight, before securing a welcome 2-0 success at lowly Carmarthen Town last Saturday.

Having similar surfaces themselves, both sides will feel at home on the 3G at Aberystwyth's Park Avenue ground, and Ruscoe anticipates a close encounter against well-drilled opponents.

"They are a fit and well organised side," he said. "We have had some closely contested games with them in the past, and I expect nothing different on Saturday," he said.

"This is a one-off, so form will go out of the window, but we have a good record in the cup having won it for the last few years, and we want to win it again. I have won the cup as a player and as an assistant, so it will be nice to win it for the first time as a manager."

TNS have not lost to the students since their rivals have been in the top flight, but have been involved in some tight affairs, including a goalless stalemate in Cardiff earlier in the season.

The Met defeated Goytre, Pontypridd Town and Welsh Premier outfits Barry Town and Newtown en route to the final, while TNS progressed with victories over Flint Town United, Caernarfon Town and Connah's Quay Nomads.

Top scorer Greg Draper is a fitness doubt with an ankle injury, but left back Chris Marriott is back in contention after illness.

The Saints go into the final in fine fettle having opened up a commanding 12-point lead at the top of the Welsh Premier following their 2-1 victory over Bangor City, courtesy of a late strike from defender Blaine Hudson.

Winger Jamie Mullan and defender Blaine Hudson have agreed two-year extensions to their contracts, which secures their services with the Saints until the end of the 2019/20 season.

Former TNS striker Scott Quigley has joined Wrexham on loan from Blackpool. Quigley left TNS for the Seaside last summer for an initial fee of £35,000, rising to £50,000 - a record for The New Saints.

Eagles held up in win search



Oswestry's James Roberts tries to shake off an Orrell tackler. Picture: John Gibbs.

WITH their Swalec Bowl dreams over, COBRA will be anxious to avoid a cup hangover when they entertain one of their chief promotion rivals Wrexham in the Welsh League division two (north) on Saturday (2.30).

It's a big game for both sides as the battle to return to the first division heats up - and both will want to shake off Bowl defeats last weekend. COBRA ended up well beaten 34-3 by an impressive Pembroke side as hopes of reaching the last eight of the competition for the first time evaporated.

So the Meifod men will now want to put that defeat behind them on Saturday when they host Wrexham in the battle for runners-up spot. Their visitors also went out of the Swalec Bowl with a 21-12 loss to Caerphilly side Deri.

WELSHPOOL are in good spirits after

boosting their chances of escaping the basement places in the division two (north) with a timely 23-17 success at Llangollen.

Despite the victory, Pool remain in the bottom two, but are now just three points adrift of Llangollen.

The Maesydre side will look to build on that result on Saturday at home to Rhyl as they bid to avenge a defeat earlier in the season.

After two losses, **OSWESTRY** seek their first win of the year in the South Lincs and Cheshire Two when they host mid-table rivals Wigan on Saturday (2.15).

Despite a bright start in which they led 7-0, the Eagles succumbed 48-7 at Orrell last weekend, a defeat which saw them slip to ninth in the table. They lie one place below their Wigan visitors on points difference.

Pool's lead trimmed to three points

WELSHPOOL Town will look to get their title quest back on track in the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they tackle Bow Street at Maesydre on Saturday (2.30).

A controversial 1-0 loss at Radnor Valley saw Pool's lead at the top of the table trimmed to three points - with Llanrhaeadr now ready to pounce with four games in hand in second place.

So the Maesydre men will be out to hit back, but points will be hard-earned against a steely Bow Street side who are going well themselves.

Meanwhile, Pool's 19-year-old winger Josh Morgan has left the club to join Spar League rivals Berriew who have also signed Jack Weaver from Abermule.

Llanrhaeadr, looking good in second spot, face a tricky trip to Carno as they look to turn up the heat while Llanfair United return to league duty at Kerry.

Berriew, after bowing out of the Central Wales Cup with a 4-1 loss at Knighton, head to Tywyn Brynrcrug in the league on Saturday.

It's been an unsettling time for the Rhewysiders with Karl Seliarts (Llanfair), Chris Carroll, Matt Mumford (both Kerry) and Richard Davies (expected to go to Caersws but not finalised yet) leaving the club.

Reflecting on the Knighton defeat, boss Dave Jones said: "In the first half, there was not much in the game and we were possibly slightly unfortunate to be 1-0 down at half time through a deflected shot."

"In the second half, we were on top for the first 10-15 minutes, but then conceded an awful goal from a corner, and ran out of steam."

Guils hit road for long Holyhead trip

GUILSFIELD aim to keep the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance pacesetters firmly in their sights when they make Saturday's trek to Holyhead Hotspur (2.30).

After their fine 3-1 victory over fancied Airbus UK Broughton, the Guils can head to Anglesey in good heart for what will be the first of back-to-back trips to the island.

And boss Nathan Leonard will want his side to carry on from where they left off in last week's win against the Wing-makers that lifted them up to fourth - two points off second spot, and six points adrift of leaders Caernarfon Town.

"We did not play that badly in the first half, but were lucky to be only 1-0 down," he said. "After weathering the storm, we scored twice right on half time which changed the game."

"We were relentless in the second half, worked hard as a team, and never let them back into the game. It was an unbelievable second half performance, and we dominated in every department."

"We're now right up there, which makes it all the more frustrating that we've dropped points in the last couple of games."



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